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**ADL Foundation**

Michael Sheetz, President

June 10, 2024

The Honorable Michael Burgess  
Chairman  
House Rules Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim McGovern  
Ranking Member  
House Rules Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Burgess and Ranking Member McGovern:

Since 1913, the mission of ADL (Anti-Defamation League) has been to “stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all.” ADL is dedicated to combating antisemitism, extremism, and hate in all forms – from across the ideological spectrum. For decades, ADL has fought against bigotry and antisemitism by monitoring and exposing extremist groups and movements that spread hate and commit acts of violence.

Rising [antisemitism](#), hate, and extremism threaten the safety of all communities and institutions – and our military is no exception. Amid this growing threat, ADL has [documented](#) attempted recruitment from and the targeting of government institutions such as the military. This puts our military in danger.

Instances of extremism within the military, as well as forms of hate including antisemitism, are not representative of most military personnel, who are committed to upholding the values of their respective services and their oath to the Constitution. But even a small number of extremists in the ranks causes harm far disproportionate to their number.

Unchecked extremism within the military has repeatedly [been shown to cause serious problems](#): physical harm to servicemembers and civilians, security breaches, and harm to morale, unit cohesion, personnel retention, recruiting efforts, and mission success. There have been [numerous arrests](#) in recent years of members of the military for crimes tied to a range of extremist ideologies, from Islamist extremism to white supremacy to anti-government militia groups.

We urge you to ensure that the Department of Defense is sufficiently protecting our military, its personnel, and our national security from the growing threat posed by antisemitism, extremism, and hate. We must support the Department in overcoming these challenges, instead of undermining programs and training that ensure the success of the military’s forces and operations.

To help protect our military and our country from antisemitism and violent extremism, we write to urge the House Committee on Rules to *support* and make in order the following amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2025:

### **Protect Against Antisemitism and Extremism**

- **[#780](#), Sponsored by Reps. Manning (D-NC), Molinaro (R-NY), Meng (D-NY), Van Drew (R-NJ), Garbarino (R-NY), Goldman (D-NY):** Establishes a National Coordinator to Counter Antisemitism.
- **[#273](#), Sponsored by Rep. Gottheimer (D-NJ):** Requires military academies to assess the climate of antisemitism on their campuses.
- **[#781](#), Sponsored by Reps. Manning (D-NC), Molinaro (R-NY), Meng (D-NY), Van Drew (R-NJ), Garbarino (R-NY), Goldman (D-NY):** Requires a report to Congress containing an annual threat assessment of antisemitic violent extremism, including the threat posed to the homeland, U.S. citizens abroad, and U.S. military personnel.
- **[#955](#), Sponsored by Rep. Veasey (D-TX):** Requires a briefing from the Secretary of Defense on the Department of Defense's progress implementing the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, including an update on the Department's analysis of antisemitic incidents in the military and feasibility of whether a new study should be conducted.
- **[#133](#), Sponsored by Rep. Gottheimer (D-NJ) and Rep. Lawler (R-NY):** Requires a report on the nature and disposition of the most recent six years of substantiated administrative investigations or instances of antisemitism within the Equal Opportunity Program.
- **[#662](#), Sponsored by Rep. Lieu (D-CA) and Rep. Goldman (D-NY):** Requires a public report detailing DOD's implementation of the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism.
- **[#732](#), Sponsored by Rep. Schneider (D-IL) and Rep. Frankel (D-FL):** Requires the Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General to provide a public audit on the status and efficiency of antisemitism training within the Department of Defense.
- **[#734](#), Sponsored by Rep. Schneider (D-IL) and Raskin (D-MD):** Adds enhanced screening procedures to identify domestic extremist activity within the Department of Defense.
- **[#1127](#), Sponsored by Rep. Lieu (D-CA):** Designates a lead official within Department of Defense who shall be responsible for coordinating all department efforts to identify, monitor, and combat antisemitism within the U.S. Armed Forces.

- **[#1273](#), Sponsored by Rep. Ryan (D-NY):** Requires the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress on the role of antisemitism in violent extremist movements and the threat that global antisemitism and violent extremist movements pose to the United States Armed Forces and national security.
- **[#1135](#), Sponsored by Rep. Wasserman Schultz (D-FL):** Requires a report on Department of Defense actions in support of Jewish American Heritage Month and to uplift the heritage and history of Jewish Americans in accordance with the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism.
- **[#387](#), Sponsored by Reps. Lawler (R-NY) and Gottheimer (D-NJ):** Expands existing anti-boycott law to simply add “or international governmental organization” into this language to dispel boycott efforts at IGOs. This will be particularly impactful in combating the harmful, antisemitic, and anti-Israel BDS efforts at IGOs.

### **Address Online Hate**

- **[#141](#), Sponsored by Rep. Gottheimer (D-NJ), Rep. Moylan (R-GU), and Rep. Titus (D-NV):** Would implement the bipartisan H.R. 6463, the STOP HATE, which requires social media companies to be transparent about how they are handling content on FTOs and an intelligence community estimate to better understand the threat terrorists on online platforms pose to U.S. national security.
- **[#628](#), Sponsored by Reps. Stevens (D-MI) and Slotkin (D-MI):** Directs the Secretary of Defense to initiate a pilot program to develop a comprehensive training curriculum for the Armed Forces members. The curriculum aims to equip servicemembers with essential skills to combat information-based threats, including disinformation campaigns by foreign adversaries, and to effectively identify and counter antisemitic, white supremacist, and other extremist conspiracy theories.

### **Combat Global Hate**

- **[#1250](#), Sponsored by Rep. Keating (D-MA):** Requires the Secretary of State to release a public version of the strategy to address white identity terrorism as required by the 2021 NDAA.
- **[#1263](#), Sponsored by Rep. Keating (D-MA):** Authorizes the Secretary of Defense to transfer up to \$10 million for military information support operations to the Global Engagement Center (GEC) established pursuant to the 2017 NDAA for the purpose of countering racially and ethnically motivated violent extremism (REMVE) threats.
- **[#515](#), Sponsored by Rep. Porter (D-CA) and Salazar (R-FL):** Requires the President to issue a report to Congress to outline Administration policy related to human rights, nuclear proliferation, the ballistic missile program, and regional terrorism in Iran.

- **#761, Sponsored by Schneider (D-IL) and Kustoff (R-TN):** Authorizes the Secretary of Defense to provide to the Government of Israel military training and assistance to facilitate the rescue of hostages held by Hamas.
- **#756, Sponsored by Frankel (D-FL) and Wilson (R-SC):** Reauthorizes the United States-Israel International Development Cooperation Act to provide cooperative projects among the United States, Israel, and developing countries.
- **#375, Lawler (R-NY), Goldman (D-NY), Malliotakis (R-NY), Ryan (D-NY), Williams (R-NY), Van Drew (R-NJ), Molinaro (R-NY), D'Esposito (R-NY):** Provides for an immediate distribution in 2024 from the U.S. Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Fund (USVSST Fund), and helps ensure funding is available going forward. It requires an annual pay out from the USVSST Fund to its participants going forward, an annual report to Congress on the Fund, a GAO report on quality of administration and recommendations every 3 years, and expands the USVSST Fund personnel from 5 to 10 people.
- **#978, Goldman (D-NY), Bilirakis (R-FL), Titus (D-NV), Malliotakis (R-NY), Meng (D-NY), Schneider (D-IL):** Requires DNI – in coordination with DOD, Treasury, and State – to submit a report to Congress that discloses whether any NATO ally is: (1) actively harboring; (2) materially aiding (financially, militarily, etc.); and/or (3) has reasonable knowledge that members of the Hamas terrorist group, its affiliates, and/or financial assets reside within their territory or areas under its effective control.
- **#314, Gottheimer (D-NJ), Schneider (D-IL), Suozzi (D-NY), Nickel (D-NC), Espallat (D-NY), Sherman (D-CA), Hudson (R-NC), Pettersen (D-CO), Stevens (D-MI), LaMalfa (R-CA):** Authorizes a Report Authored by the Secretary of Defense to study steps Israel, the US, and Egypt can take to enhance international security measures on the Gaza-Egypt border to ensure Hamas and other actors cannot use tunnels or methods via the Mediterranean Sea to smuggle weapons and illicit goods. Additionally, report will outline/map existing tunnel networks.

We urge you to **oppose** the following amendment:

- **#1327, Sponsored by Boebert (R-CO):** Prohibition on federal funding for the Countering Extremist Activity Working Group or implementation of any recommendations from the group.

We also urge you to *oppose* any amendments that undermine the military's ability to ensure the civil rights, safety, and equitable treatment of servicemembers, and further compromise the effectiveness of the force.

Addressing extremism and antisemitism is not about a political or ideological litmus test, but practical threats to the operations and values of the U.S. military.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Max Sevilla". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. The letters are connected, with "Max" and "Sevilla" written as one continuous word. The signature is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

Max Sevilla  
Senior Vice-President, National Affairs  
ADL (Anti-Defamation League)