

Dear friends and supporters,

This week, we submitted the most recent **Study on Antisemitism in Texas** to Gov. Abbott, Lt. Gov. Patrick, House Speaker Phelan, and the Texas Legislature on behalf of the Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission (THGAAC). We are attaching a copy, which you can also find on our <u>website</u>.

The report details what many of you know too well from your daily work both before and since Hamas' October 7, 2023, attacks on Israel: that Jew-hatred is on the rise, with much of it fueled by a disdain for the State of Israel. In Texas, we have responded to incidents everywhere from synagogues and Jewish community centers to city council chambers and front lawns and, of course, public schools and college campuses.

As the report makes clear, however, Texas is also a national leader in fighting back—thanks to our elected officials, individuals like you, and groups like yours.

Building on this leadership, we have included a series of recommendations in the report for Texas to continue promoting awareness and improving security. Several of these recommendations will be implemented directly by our team at the THGAAC, while others will require legislative support and action. They include:

- Expanding the application of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, which is currently applied to higher education institutions, to public K-12 schools.
- **Establishing an anti-masking law** that creates an additional penalty for anyone who wears a mask or otherwise takes active steps to hide their facial features while committing a criminal offense.
- **Continuing the vital security grants** that Gov. Abbott and lawmakers established in the last year to help religious organizations, schools, and community centers harden their security infrastructures.

Your input, guidance, and support are integral to maintaining and elevating Texas as a national leader in fighting back. We thank you for your partnership and tireless efforts to identify and eradicate antisemitism.

for Addby

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