

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6578

To establish the Commission to Study Acts of Antisemitism in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 4, 2023

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. MANN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. ROSE, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. GUEST, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. LAWLER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish the Commission to Study Acts of Antisemitism in the United States.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Commission to Study
5 Acts of Antisemitism in the United States Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Since Hamas deadly invasion of the nation
2 of Israel on October 7, 2023, there has been a dis-
3 turbing rise of antisemitism in the United States.

4 (2) On October 31, 2023, a student at Cornell
5 University was arrested and charged for threatening
6 to kill and injure members of the Jewish community.

7 (3) In October 2023, Federal Bureau of Inves-
8 tigation Director Christopher Wray stated that anti-
9 semitism in the United States had reached “historic
10 levels”.

11 (4) The Anti-Defamation League reported a
12 nearly 300 percent spike in antisemitic activity in
13 the United States since Hamas attack on Israel.

14 (5) In November 2023, a 69-year-old Jewish
15 man was killed in Los Angeles after being struck in
16 the head by a protester at an anti-Israel protest.

17 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.**

18 There is established in the legislative branch a com-
19 mission to be known as the “Commission to Study Acts
20 of Antisemitism in the United States” (in this Act referred
21 to as the “Commission”).

22 **SEC. 4. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

23 Without making any predetermined or political find-
24 ings, the Commission shall—

1 (1) investigate the facts, different sources, and
2 manifestations of antisemitism in the present day;

3 (2) examine and evaluate evidence developed by
4 relevant Federal, State, and local governments, as
5 well as leading non-governmental organizations with
6 significant experience gathering data and trends on
7 antisemitic incidents in the United States, regarding
8 the facts and circumstances of antisemitic attacks
9 within the United States, except that such examina-
10 tion and evaluation shall not interfere with ongoing
11 law enforcement activities and investigations;

12 (3) evaluate the different types of actions taken
13 by Federal, State, and local governments and gov-
14 ernmental agencies in recent years to combat anti-
15 semitism; and

16 (4) report to the President and Congress re-
17 garding its findings, conclusions, and recommenda-
18 tions for legislation or administrative actions as the
19 Commission considers appropriate.

20 **SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP.**

21 (a) MEMBERS.—

22 (1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Com-
23 mission shall be composed of 9 members appointed
24 as follows:

1 (A) 2 members appointed by the Speaker
2 of the House of Representatives.

3 (B) 2 members appointed by the minority
4 leader of the House of Representatives.

5 (C) 2 members appointed by the majority
6 leader of the Senate.

7 (D) 2 members appointed by the minority
8 leader of the Senate.

9 (E) 1 member appointed by the President
10 of the United States.

11 (2) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The
12 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Commis-
13 sion shall be designated jointly by the Speaker of the
14 House of Representatives and the minority leader of
15 the House of Representatives at the time of the ap-
16 pointment.

17 (3) POLITICAL AFFILIATION.—Not more than 4
18 members appointed under paragraph (1) may be of
19 the same political party.

20 (4) TIMING FOR APPOINTMENT.—All members
21 of the Commission shall be appointed not later than
22 10 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

23 (5) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members of the Com-
24 mission shall have demonstrated expertise and expe-

1 rience cataloguing, addressing, and combating anti-
2 semitism.

3 (b) TERMS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each member shall be ap-
5 pointed for the life of the Commission.

6 (2) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission
7 shall be filled in the manner in which the original
8 appointment was made.

9 (c) BASIC PAY.—

10 (1) COMPENSATION.—Except as provided in
11 paragraph (2), members shall each be paid at a rate
12 not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate
13 of basic pay for level III of the Executive Schedule
14 for each day (including travel time) during which
15 they are engaged in the actual performance of duties
16 vested in the Commission.

17 (2) PROHIBITION OF COMPENSATION OF FED-
18 ERAL EMPLOYEES.—Members of the Commission
19 who are full-time officers or employees of the United
20 States or Members of Congress may not receive ad-
21 ditional pay, allowances, or benefits by reason of
22 their service on the Commission.

23 (3) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall
24 receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of
25 subsistence, in accordance with applicable provisions

1 under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United
2 States Code.

3 (d) QUORUM.—6 members of the Commission shall
4 constitute a quorum but a lesser number may hold hear-
5 ings.

6 (e) MEETINGS.—As soon as practicable after all
7 members are appointed, but not earlier than 15 days after
8 the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall
9 meet and begin the initial operation of the Commission.
10 The Commission shall meet monthly thereafter.

11 **SEC. 6. EXPERTS; STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

12 (a) EXPERTS.—The Commission may procure tem-
13 porary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of
14 title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals
15 not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of
16 basic pay for GS–15 of the General Schedule. The services
17 of an expert or consultant may be procured without com-
18 pensation if the expert or consultant agrees to such an
19 arrangement, in writing, in advance.

20 (b) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon request
21 of the Commission, the head of any Federal department
22 or agency may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the
23 personnel of that department or agency to the Commission
24 to assist it in carrying out its duties under this Act.

1 **SEC. 7. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

2 (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission
3 may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hear-
4 ings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and
5 receive evidence as the Commission considers appropriate.
6 The Commission may administer oaths or affirmations to
7 witnesses appearing before it.

8 (b) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any mem-
9 ber or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the
10 Commission, take any action which the Commission is au-
11 thorized to take by this section.

12 (c) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commission
13 may secure directly from any department or agency of the
14 United States information necessary to enable it to carry
15 out this Act. Upon joint request of the Chairperson and
16 Vice Chairperson of the Commission, the head of that de-
17 partment or agency shall furnish that information to the
18 Commission.

19 (d) SUBPOENA POWER.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may issue
21 subpoenas requiring the attendance and testimony of
22 witnesses and the production of any evidence relat-
23 ing to any matter which the Commission is empow-
24 ered to investigate under this Act. Such subpoenas
25 shall be issued by agreement between the Chair-
26 person and Vice Chairperson of the Commission, or

1 by the vote of a majority of the members of the
2 Commission. The attendance of witnesses and the
3 production of evidence may be required from any
4 place within the United States at any designated
5 place of hearing within the United States.

6 (2) FAILURE TO OBEY A SUBPOENA.—If a per-
7 son refuses to obey a subpoena issued under para-
8 graph (1), the Commission may apply to a United
9 States district court for an order requiring that per-
10 son to appear before the Commission to give testi-
11 mony, produce evidence, or both, relating to the
12 matter under investigation. The application may be
13 made within the judicial district where the hearing
14 is conducted or where that person is found, resides,
15 or transacts business. Any failure to obey the order
16 of the court may be punished by the court as civil
17 contempt.

18 (3) SERVICE OF SUBPOENAS.—The subpoenas
19 of the Commission shall be served in the manner
20 provided for subpoenas issued by a United States
21 district court under the Federal Rules of Civil Pro-
22 cedure for the United States district courts.

23 (4) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—All process of any
24 court to which application is made under paragraph
25 (2) may be served in the judicial district in which

1 the person required to be served resides or may be
2 found.

3 (e) IMMUNITY.—Except as provided in this sub-
4 section, a person may not be excused from testifying or
5 from producing evidence pursuant to a subpoena on the
6 ground that the testimony or evidence required by the sub-
7 poena may tend to incriminate or subject that person to
8 criminal prosecution. A person, after having claimed the
9 privilege against self-incrimination, may not be criminally
10 prosecuted by reason of any transaction, matter, or thing
11 which that person is compelled to testify about or produce
12 evidence relating to, except that the person may be pros-
13 ecuted for perjury committed during the testimony or
14 made in the evidence.

15 (f) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—To the extent or in the
16 amounts provided in advance in appropriation Acts, the
17 Commission may enter into contracts to enable the Com-
18 mission to discharge its duties under this Act.

19 **SEC. 8. REPORT; TERMINATION.**

20 (a) REPORT.—The Commission shall transmit a re-
21 port to the President and Congress not later than 1 year
22 after the date of enactment of this Act. The report shall
23 contain a detailed statement of the findings and conclu-
24 sions of the Commission, together with its recommenda-

1 tions for legislation or administrative actions as the Com-
2 mission considers appropriate.

3 (b) TERMINATION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall termi-
5 nate upon the expiration of the 120-day period
6 which begins on the date on which the Commission
7 submits the report under subsection (a).

8 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES BEFORE TER-
9 MINATION.—The Commission may use the 120-day
10 period referred to in paragraph (1) for the purpose
11 of concluding the activities of the Commission, in-
12 cluding disseminating the report submitted under
13 subsection (a) and providing testimony to commit-
14 tees of Congress concerning such report.

15 **SEC. 9. DEFINITION.**

16 In this Act, the term “antisemitism” is a certain per-
17 ception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward
18 Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-
19 semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish indi-
20 viduals and their property, toward Jewish community in-
21 stitutions and religious facilities:

22 (1) Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing
23 or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology
24 or an extremist view of religion.

1 (2) Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demon-
2 izing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such
3 or the power of Jews as collective, such as, especially
4 but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish
5 conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, econ-
6 omy, and government or other societal institutions.

7 (3) Accusing Jews as a people of being respon-
8 sible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by
9 a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts
10 committed by non-Jews.

11 (4) Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g.
12 gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of
13 the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist
14 Germany and its supporters and accomplices during
15 World War II (the Holocaust).

16 (5) Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as
17 a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.

18 (6) Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal
19 to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews world-
20 wide, than to the interests of their own nations.

21 (7) Denying the Jewish people their right to
22 self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the exist-
23 ence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.

1 (8) Applying double standards by requiring of
2 it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other
3 democratic nation.

4 (9) Using the symbols and images associated
5 with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing
6 Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or
7 Israelis.

8 (10) Drawing comparisons of contemporary
9 Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.

10 (11) Holding Jews collectively responsible for
11 actions of the state of Israel.

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