

November 11, 2021

Honorable Bob Menendez, Chairman  
Honorable James E. Risch, Ranking Member  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Menendez and Ranking Member Risch:

We, the undersigned 21 national Jewish organizations, including the four streams of American Judaism, write to urge you to swiftly fill the position of U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism by considering the current nominee. Filling this position is a high priority for our organizations and of utmost importance in fighting growing antisemitism and hate worldwide.

As Jewish organizations dedicated to protecting the rights and security of the Jewish people, we believe that the U.S. Special Envoy position is crucial to addressing the global rise in antisemitic violence, harassment, vandalism, attitudes, and incitement. In 2020, due to the global threat of increasing antisemitism, Congress updated the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of 2004, elevating the role of the U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism to the rank of Ambassador and granting authority to coordinate efforts across the entire federal government to combat antisemitism abroad. Congress has also highlighted the need for an expanded U.S. role on this issue, stating that “since the Global Antisemitism Review Act of 2004 was enacted, in many foreign countries acts of anti-Semitism have been frequent and wide in scope, the perpetrators and variety of threats to Jewish communities and their institutions have proliferated, and in some countries antisemitic attacks have increased in frequency, scope, violence, and deadliness.”

Every day that we delay filling this critical position, we are endangering people’s lives. We cannot let antisemitism become a wedge issue in today’s polarized politics. To this end, we strongly urge you to prioritize filling this position, which is not only the right thing to do, but also sends a powerful signal to governments around the world that the U.S. takes combating antisemitism seriously and calls on them to do the same.

Sincerely,

American Jewish Congress  
Anti-Defamation League  
B’nai B’rith International  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America  
J Street  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Jewish Labor Committee  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Jewish Women International  
National Council of Jewish Women  
NCSEJ  
ORT America  
Rabbinical Assembly  
Reconstructing Judaism  
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
The Jewish Federations of North America  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America  
Women's League for Conservative Judaism - WLCJ  
World Jewish Congress

Cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations