

December 18, 2023

Dear Senator,

We write today as leaders of American and Georgia religious communities and organizations to express support for HB 30, legislation that would incorporate the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism into Title 50 of the Georgia Code.

Antisemitism in the United States has reached record heights in recent years and since the barbaric October 7 attack by Hamas terrorists, antisemitism in our country has skyrocketed with a 300% increase. Georgia, like many other states, has seen more than its share of antisemitic incidents in recent years—from the distribution of hateful propaganda in several Atlanta neighborhoods effectively terrorizing your constituents to overt harassment and threats to Jews and Jewish institutions. The number of such incidents between 2021 and 2022 rose by 63%.

We must each do our part to stem the rising tide of antisemitism sweeping across our country. And as one cannot defeat that which they are unwilling to define, the IHRA definition is a vital tool in the effort to combat such bigotry.

To be clear, HB 30 does not criminalize speech. The legislation merely recommends that the IHRA definition be considered in the context of investigating whether an underlying unlawful act was motivated by antisemitism. Under this bill, the IHRA definition serves as a resource, not a punishment.

As a state governed by people of conscience, we cannot allow antisemites to define antisemitism. Nonetheless, the passage of HB 30 would not criminalize such bigotry.

40 countries have adopted this definition, as have 33 states across our nation, and the federal government. The definition enjoys widespread bipartisan support, as evidenced by its codification under President Trump via [Executive Order 13899](#), and sustained by President Biden.

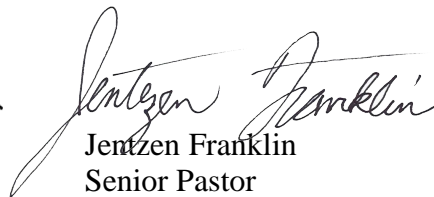
Currently Neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and other extremist bigots are targeting the Jewish community in the United States. We would never seek to deny anyone their right to free speech, no matter how repugnant we might find certain statements, but our state leaders have a role to play in this fight.

Sending HB 30 to Governor Kemp's desk in order to see the IHRA definition used as guidance under appropriate circumstances is a fitting, constitutionally valid, and necessary step in the fight against antisemitism. We urge you to advance this legislation without delay.

Sincerely,



Pastor John Hagee  
National Chairman  
Christians United for Israel



Jentzen Franklin  
Senior Pastor  
Free Life Chapel  
Gainesville, GA



Ralph E. Reed  
Chairman  
Faith and Freedom Coalition

(Signatures continued on the following page.)

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/s/ Pastor Jay Bailey  
Solid Rock Church  
Columbus, Georgia

/s/ Dr. Marty Baker  
Lead Pastor, Stevens Creek  
Church  
Augusta, Georgia

/s/ Pastor Bryan Cockrell  
The Sanctuary  
Evans, Georgia

/s/ Pastor Dave Divine  
Chapelhill Church  
Douglasville, Georgia

/s/ John Dougherty  
District Superintendent  
Georgia District  
Assemblies of God  
Macon, Georgia

/s/ Pastor John Harvey III  
The Vine Outreach  
Stone Mountain, Georgia

/s/ Tom Madden  
Administrative Bishop,  
North Georgia Church of  
God  
Lawrenceville, Georgia

/s/ Pastor Allan Malloy  
New Life Church  
Canton, Georgia

/s/ Pastor George Morrison  
Truth and Life Ministry  
Douglasville, Georgia

/s/ Pastor Randy Tinker  
Trenton Ministry Church  
Trenton, Georgia

/s/ Pastor Adam Tripp  
Lavonia Church of God  
Lavonia, Georgia

/s/ Pastor Francisco Vega,  
A.R.C.  
Acworth, Georgia