

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 2024

An open letter to Columbia University alumni and donors:

As Members of Congress, we urge donors and individuals affiliated with Columbia University to condemn the antisemitic incidents occurring on the university's campus by pulling donations and support for the university until there are demonstrable changes in leadership, including the resignation of Columbia University President Minouche Shafik. The university should also provide a thorough review of all school funding and investigate the outside forces influencing students and agitators to participate in these disruptive and violent incidents that target and intimidate Jewish students on campus.

In the aftermath of the October 7 attacks by Hamas on Israel, university campuses across the U.S. experienced riots and incidents of antisemitism. Many protests led by anti-Israel groups resulted in intimidation and calls for violence against Jewish students, faculty, and staff. Nowhere is this more evident than at Columbia University.

Last week, the House Education and Workforce Committee held a hearing on Columbia University leadership's response, where members questioned university leaders, including Columbia University President Shafik, as to why they failed to address campus antisemitism and support for terrorism.

While university leaders claimed they were taking necessary actions to protect students and stop the violence and chaos occurring on campus, Columbia University was again erupting in riots as a 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment' was formed on campus. Over the past weekend, incidents in and surrounding the encampment made national headlines as classes at the university were canceled or moved online for the remainder of the school year and more than 100 protesters were arrested. Columbia Rabbi Elie Buechler urged students to stay at home for their safety, saying in a message to over 300 Jewish students, "I would strongly recommend you return home as soon as possible and remain home until the reality in and around campus has dramatically improved". As of this writing, the encampment has been allowed to reconvene and students remain unsafe as Columbia's leadership has failed to follow through on the reassurances regarding enforcement that they had just days earlier made to Congress.

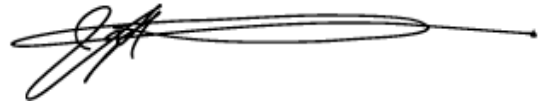
We are pleased that many alumni and donors of Columbia are already taking action. Long-time donor Robert Kraft pulled his financial support of the university due to these same reasons. We encourage all supporters of the university to do the same and call for the resignation of President Shafik. Additionally, we urge all individuals affiliated with the university to call for a transparent and thorough audit of all university funding concerning the anti-Israel movement on campus, and what outside groups are contributing and influencing students and agitators to participate.

Columbia University is among the top academic institutions in the country. It is an absolute failure of the university's commitment to students, staff, and supporters that they have allowed the institution to be overrun and terrorized. We appreciate your urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



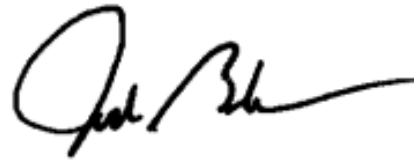
Eric Burlison
Member of Congress



Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress



Brandon Williams
Member of Congress



Josh Brecheen
Member of Congress



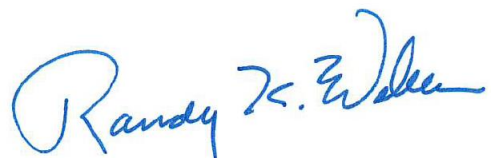
Russell Fry
Member of Congress



Andy Ogles
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress



Troy Nehls
Member of Congress



Anthony D'Esposito
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Collins".

Mike Collins
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Self".

Keith Self
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Smith".

Jason Smith
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Malliotakis".

Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Good".

Bob Good
Member of Congress