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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

March 26, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Dr. Julio Frenk
Chancellor
University of California, Los Angeles
2147 Murphy Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90095

Dear Chancellor Frenk:

In February, masked activists associated with the group Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) reportedly vandalized the property of a University of California regent and surrounded his wife while she was in her car. In response, UCLA suspended indefinitely two SJP-affiliated groups on campus.¹

This is only the most recent in a chain of concerning events involving SJP. In June 2024, SJP was reportedly involved in setting up a series of “unauthorized and unlawful encampment[s]” on UCLA’s campus.² UCLA officials stated that the activity was “completely unacceptable,” that it “disregarded [UCLA’s] values as a community, violated . . . campus policies and broke the law.”³ Officials further stated that the “actions injured people, threatened the safety of [UCLA’s] community and vandalized [its] campus” and “prevented students from completing their final exams.”⁴

¹ Jaweed Kaleem, *UCLA suspends Students for Justice in Palestine after vandalism at UC regent’s home*, LOS ANGELES TIMES (Feb. 12, 2025), <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-02-12/ucla-suspends-students-for-justice-in-palestine-jay-sures-protest>.

² *Pro-Palestinian protesters carrying fake corpses clash with police on UCLA campus*, KCAL NEWS (June 11, 2024), <https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/protesters-carrying-fake-corpses-march-across-ucla-campus/>.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

According to reports, SJP was supported by American Muslims for Palestine (AMP), which has personnel with reported ties to the Foreign Terrorist Organization Hamas.⁵ In February 2023, AMP was also actively involved in a National SJP Conference held at UCLA.⁶

Activity that threatens the safety of others is not constitutionally protected free speech, and conduct that violates campus rules should not be tolerated. Reports of individuals with ties to terrorist groups or their affiliates engaging with students on college campuses are also cause for the highest alarm.

Through its Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism, the Trump Administration is taking critical steps to address “anti-Semitic harassment in schools and on college campuses.”⁷ In addition, the U.S. Department of Education has announced that sixty colleges and universities “are presently under investigation for Title VI violations relating to antisemitic harassment and discrimination.”⁸ The U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) is also investigating the activities of Hamas-linked groups on college campuses to determine what, if any, additional legislative action may be required to protect students.

In order for HELP to investigate these matters further to ensure campus safety, please respond to the following, on a question-by-question basis, no later than April 9, 2025.

1. Please provide a detailed account of incidents on UCLA’s campus involving SJP. Your response should include all violations of campus policy, threats to campus safety, and antisemitic threats directed at UCLA students.
2. Did UCLA investigate the February 2025 incident at the home of a UCLA regent. Please provide all related records.
3. Please provide all records in the university’s possession relating to SJP and its on campus activities.
4. Is the university aware of any organizing activity by AMP or its affiliates on UCLA’s campus? Please provide all related records.
5. Is the university aware of the connection between SJP, AMP, and the Foreign Terrorist Organization Hamas? Please provide all related records.

⁵ *From Ivory Towers to Dark Corners: Investigating the Nexus Between Antisemitism, Tax-Exempt Universities, and Terror Financing*, Hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee, 118th Congress (2023) (statement of Dr. Jonathan Schanzer), <https://gop-waysandmeans.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Schanzer-Testimony.pdf>.

⁶ *Student Activism for Palestine is The Pride of Our Movement*, AMP (Mar. 31, 2023), <https://www.ampalastine.org/media/blog/student-activism-palestine-pride-our-movement>.

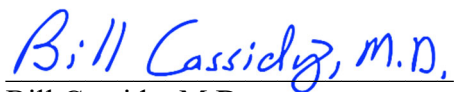
⁷ Press Release, Justice Department Announces Formation of Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism (Feb. 3, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-formation-task-force-combat-anti-semitism>

⁸ Press Release, “U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights Sends Letters to 60 Universities Under Investigation for Antisemitic Discrimination and Harassment” (March 10, 2025), <https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-educations-office-civil-rights-sends-letters-60-universities-under-investigation-antisemitic-discrimination-and-harassment>.

6. Did SJP cease any of its activities on campus after being suspended, and did its suspension reduce the severity of campus protests? Please provide all information about whether members of the organization participated in campus protests in 2024 and 2025 and how the protests were organized.
7. Did SJP ever receive funding from the university? If so, how much, and what was the source of the funding?
8. Did campus policy require that SJP have a faculty representative? If so, was a faculty member assigned to this role or did one volunteer to serve as SJP's representative? Please provide all relevant information.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Bill Cassidy, M.D.

Chairman

U.S. Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor, and Pensions