

The Honorable Senator Hawley,

Despite the significant disagreement that many of us might have on many issues, we are extremely impressed by your stance against antisemitism on U.S. campuses. That is why we write to you even though you are not a North Carolina Senator.

We are tired, frustrated, and hurt over a conflict thousands of miles away, yet so close to home at the same time. Every day, Jewish students like our peers on campus suffer from unrelenting antisemitism. We are tired of the chants of "from the river to the sea" following us inside and out of the classroom. We are tired of opening social media and seeing thousands of people post comments such as "[Hitler] was right." Even to the present day, many of our peers recall how their Jewish grandparents told them to hide their faith and their heritage because of the abject misery and trials that they went through. The reality for many Jewish students across America is a relentless battle to defend their sanity, as they witness the outright celebration of the barbaric and atrocious acts carried out by the terrorist organization known as Hamas.

Jewish students at UNC do not feel safe. After October 7th, the day of the terror attack, anti-Jewish rhetoric hit an all-time high. A Jewish student with an Israeli flag on his back had drinks thrown at him in our dining hall. Members of the Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) threatened several peaceful protesters with violence, and some brandished pocket knives and threatened our members. A Professor was pushed down a flight of stairs by these protesters who proceeded to pour drinks on him. Jewish students across campus are being harassed by student "reporters" so they can continue to publish antisemitic-driven narratives. Posters for SJP and other affiliated organizations across campus depict terrorists flying into Israel and the Hamas missiles aimed at Israel. Faculty, including several of our professors, have signed petitions demonizing Israel and falsely calling it a "militarized colonial state." This petition made Jewish students feel unable to openly discuss any related matter without the threat of suffering academically. Our posters depicting the Israeli hostages in Palestine are taken down within hours by members of the UNC community.

Our University Chancellor has failed our student body with his late response and great inaction to provide a safe environment for Jewish students on campus. Senator Hawley, the Jewish and other deeply concerned students of the University of North Carolina ask for your support and your help.

Sincerely,