

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 23, 2021

The Honorable Bob Menendez
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James E. Risch
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Relations
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Menendez and Ranking Member Risch:

As members of the House Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Antisemitism, we write to urge the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to swiftly hold a hearing on the nomination of Dr. Deborah E. Lipstadt to be the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, with the rank of Ambassador. We believe that Dr. Lipstadt is fully qualified for this role, and that her nomination merits immediate consideration by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Members of both parties believe strongly in the importance of the position of Special Envoy, and we believe that quickly filling this position should be a priority. Last Congress, the House and Senate passed, and President Trump signed into law, bipartisan legislation introduced by Representative Chris Smith. The Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act (H.R. 221 / P.L. 116-326) upgrades the Special Envoy to a Presidentially appointed position, by and with the consent of the Senate, with the rank of Ambassador. The law stipulates that “the Special Envoy should be a person of recognized distinction in the field of combating anti-Semitism.” Dr. Lipstadt, Professor of Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University, is a renowned historian, well known for her tireless efforts to combat Holocaust denial and distortion and shed light on the horrors that anti-Semitic hatred can incite. She has consistently called out and condemned antisemitism, no matter where it originates, and she has earned the trust not only of the Jewish community, but also of several leading Jewish organizations that support the immediate consideration of her nomination.

In recent months, we have witnessed growing threats against Jewish communities in our own country and worldwide. We believe it is vital to have a Special Envoy in place to confront these threats and ensure that the United States continues to lead the world in the fight against antisemitism. We are confident that when confirmed, Dr. Lipstadt will be a strong voice and committed partner to those in Congress and around the world who are dedicated to combating the scourge of antisemitism.

That is why we strongly urge you to schedule a hearing on Dr. Lipstadt’s nomination as soon as possible. Doing so will demonstrate Congress’ strong commitment to making sure that the fight against antisemitism remains a bipartisan priority.

Sincerely,



Kathy Manning
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Ted Deutch
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Bradley S. Schneider
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Susan Wild
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jake Auchincloss
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