

KEVIN KILEY
3RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE

CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0503

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION &
INFRASTRUCTURE

May 17, 2024

Office of the President
University of California
1111 Franklin St., 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

The California State University
Office of the Chancellor
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear President Drake and Chancellor Garcia:

Over the past month, campuses in both the UC and CSU systems have been disrupted by illegal encampments. These encampments violate university rules, violate the law, and have given rise to other disruptive activities posing a threat to the safety, civil rights, and learning of students.

Some UC and CSU campuses have responded by rewarding the perpetrators and incorporating their anti-Semitic demands into university policy. Specifically, a number have agreed to boycott, divest, and sanction (BDS) programs relating to Israel. Just this week, we saw Sonoma State's President agree to end all study abroad programs in Israel and divest from companies associated with Israel. President Lee even went so far as to promise to scrub university materials of references to Israel, and to convert the illegal encampment into a permanent "advisory council" charged with enforcing the new anti-Israel policies.

While Chancellor Garcia's decision to place President Lee on leave is a start, the problem is not limited to that campus. Other examples include UC Riverside, which agreed to review its investments and explore the removal of its endowment from the UC system, while also agreeing to discontinue its business school's study abroad programs to Israel; UC Berkeley, which agreed to start a "rigorous examination" of the school's investments; CSU Sacramento, which agreed to divest from Israel-tied investments; and CSU San Francisco, which agreed to reexamine its investments.

Irrespective of the merits of these policy changes – which, to be clear, are altogether unmeritorious, bigoted, and quite possibly illegal under California's anti-BDS law – allowing a small minority to get their way through force is no way to run a campus. It is not clear what

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efforts, if any, these campus leaders made to consult with Jewish student groups or the broader law-abiding student body before capitulating to the demands of encampment participants.

There is an urgent need for system-wide action in both the UC and CSU systems to restore order on campus, stop the adoption of BDS policies, and, where appropriate, appoint new campus leadership. As a Member of the Education & the Workforce Committee and Chair of the Workforce Protections Subcommittee, I am actively involved in the House of Representatives' ongoing investigations of anti-Semitism in higher education. I would appreciate a timely response as to what steps you are taking to avoid further damage to California's public universities, which have long been a tremendous asset to our state and country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Kiley".

Kevin Kiley
Member of Congress

Delivered Via Email.