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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3221**

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES  
COMMITTEE  
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
AND THE WORKFORCE  
HOUSE SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF  
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

April 11, 2024

Dr. Alan Garber  
Interim President  
Harvard University  
Massachusetts Hall  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Ms. Penny Pritzker  
Senior Fellow  
Harvard Corporation  
Massachusetts Hall  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Dr. Garber and Ms. Pritzker:

I write expressing grave concern and continued outrage over a recent handling of antisemitism on Harvard's campus. This institution has failed time and time again to take steps to properly address this scourge and hold perpetrators accountable. Your actions have continued to disgrace this institution and threaten the safety of the students you claim to serve.

On October 18, 2023, Harvard's Palestine Solidarity Committee staged a "die-in" at Harvard Business School where students protested Israel's efforts to defend itself following the October 7 Hamas terrorist attack, displaying a sign stating, "From the river to the sea." During this event, an Israeli Harvard Business School student recorded the act and was quickly surrounded by a mob of anti-Israel protestors who assaulted and harassed him. These assailants blocked his path, repeatedly grabbed him, and shouted "Shame! Shame! Shame!" at him. This assault is well documented<sup>1</sup> and was denounced by many alumni who were rightly outraged by the actions of these protesters<sup>2</sup> and called for accountability.

According to documents obtained by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, following this incident, Harvard engaged the law firm of Jenner & Block to conduct an independent investigation of the incident. Jenner & Block met with the victims' attorneys at the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://freebeacon.com/campus/israeli-harvard-business-school-student-accosted-and-harassed-amid-gaza-die-in-on-campus/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2023/11/9/die-in-confrontation-video/>

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law firm Holtzman Vogel in early January 2024 and received relevant video evidence of the incident.

Further information shows that local prosecutors are currently in the process of negotiating court dates with two of the Harvard students who assaulted the victim. On March 25, Holtzman Vogel learned that the “Clerk’s Hearing” in the criminal case has been postponed to May 7. One of the assailants in the incident, a Harvard Divinity School graduate student, is scheduled to graduate in May 2024. Due to this postponement, the assailant will gain the lifelong distinction of being an alumnus of Harvard despite having committed a well-documented antisemitic hate crime against a fellow student.

Justice for this incident should have been served quickly, and the delay of justice that specifically allows an antisemitic student to graduate is an affront to accountability and demonstrates the cultural rot of Harvard University’s leadership that has allowed antisemitism to continue.

In front of Congress, when disgraced former Harvard President Claudine Gay failed to denounce antisemitism and calls for genocide, she also claimed “disciplinary processes are underway” against perpetrators of antisemitism. This has proven to be false, with Harvard producing no evidence of punishment against those who have committed crimes and violated Harvard’s code of conduct. This same lack of accountability applies to a faculty member who recently threatened a Jewish student yet is still employed by the university<sup>3</sup>.

This recent case of Harvard protecting those who hate Jews is disgusting. As an alumna of Harvard University, allowing this student to gain the title of Harvard graduate disgraces all who have come before him and erodes the distinction of a once sought after degree. At a time when support and applications for Harvard have fallen<sup>4</sup>, university leadership has continuously chosen to side with those who hate Jewish students and faculty and failed to keep them safe.

Sincerely,



Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.newsweek.com/i-suing-harvard-antisemitism-out-control-1874728>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.wsj.com/us-news/education/harvard-university-applications-fell-by-5-52c1d452>