



STATE OF NEW YORK EXECUTIVE  
CHAMBER ALBANY 12224

KATHY HOCHUL  
GOVERNOR

December 9, 2023

New York State College and University Presidents:

This week, like many Americans, I was shocked to see the presidents of several prominent universities – current leaders that are responsible for educating young minds who will grow into the leaders of tomorrow – fail to clearly and unequivocally denounce antisemitism and calls for genocide of the Jewish people on their college campuses.

I contacted SUNY Chancellor John King to ensure that it is SUNY's policy that calling for the genocide of any group of people on one of SUNY's 62 campuses would be considered a violation of the SUNY code of conduct, and would lead to swift disciplinary action. Chancellor King affirmed that was the case, and that SUNY will not tolerate antisemitism or hatred of any kind. CUNY Chancellor Felix Matos Rodriguez has confirmed the same to be true for CUNY schools.

In addition, failure to address such activity would constitute a violation of New York State Human Rights Law as well as Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Under Title VI, any recipient of federal funds is responsible for keeping students free from a hostile environment based upon their ethnicity or national origin - a standard that has been applied to antisemitism.

I write to you to ensure that your institution applies the same standard in its code of conduct, and has a clearly defined and well publicized mechanism for individuals to report complaints. As Governor of New York, I want to reinforce that colleges and universities not in compliance with federal and state laws protecting students against discrimination can be deemed ineligible to receive state and federal funds.

I assure you that if any school in New York State is found to be in violation, I will activate the State's Division of Human Rights to take aggressive enforcement action and will refer possible Title VI violations to the federal government.

The moral lapses that were evidenced by the disgraceful answers to questions posed during this week's congressional hearing cannot and will not be tolerated here in the state of New York.

I remain grateful for the work you do educating and protecting our students and your partnership in keeping hate and intimidation out of our campuses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Hochul".

Kathy Hochul  
Governor