



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

October 10, 2023

Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Room 907
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Stewart-Cousins:

We write regarding the horrific terrorist attack perpetrated against the Jewish people and against Israel these past several days. We have watched members of the Hamas militant group injure and kill hundreds of innocent men, women and children. They have shamelessly paraded these victims through the streets showing not a hint of remorse for their grotesque actions. As if that were not enough, the New York City Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) held a rally in New York City over the weekend to support the atrocious acts of violence being carried out against the Jewish people.

Three members of your conference proudly identify as Democratic Socialists and campaigned with the support of the NYC DSA. In light of their refusal to condemn the rally and the DSA, and rationalize the killing of civilians, including women and children as part of a larger “fight for freedom,” our Conference is requesting that Senators Julia Salazar, Jabari Brisport and Kristen Gonzalez be immediately stripped of their committee assignments and any leadership roles.

Furthermore, Senate Rule 9 states that “each house shall determine the rules of its own proceedings, and be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members....” Also, Section 3 of the New York Legislative Law provides that each house of the State Legislature "has the power to expel any of its members, after the report of a committee to inquire into the charges against him shall have been made." Pursuant to this, we urge you to request a special session of the State Senate to take the necessary steps for consideration of a vote to expel Senators Salazar, Brisport and Gonzalez.

It is our Conference’s position that these individuals have disqualified themselves by standing in support of war crimes, terrorism and a terrorist group, over our allies, the nation of Israel. Their unwillingness to condemn the rally and the DSA shows a lack of moral judgment at best and anti-semitism at worst. We will not stand in support of anti-semitism and terrorism. It is our sincere hope that our actions will back up our words.

We thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Ortt
Senate Minority Leader
62nd District



Senator Tom O'Mara
58th District



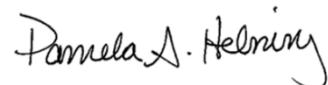
Senator Peter Oberacker
51st District



Senator Jack M. Martins
7th District



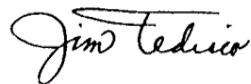
Senator Anthony Palumbo
1st District



Senator Pam Helming
54th District



Senator George Borrello
57th District



Senator Jim Tedisco
44th District



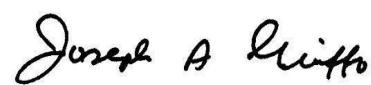
Senator Daniel G. Stec
45th District



Senator Rob Rolison
39th District



Senator Alexis Weik
8th District



Senator Joseph Griffo
53rd District



Senator Mario Mattera
2nd District



Senator Mark Walczyk
49th District



Senator Jake Ashby
43rd District



Senator William Weber
38th District



Senator Dean Murray
3rd District



Senator Steve Rhoads
5th District



Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick
9th District