

An Open Letter: Business and Civic Leaders Support the Massachusetts Special Commission on Combatting Antisemitism

December 2025

We, the undersigned Massachusetts business and civic leaders, are writing to express our support for the thoughtful, comprehensive, and necessary work of the Massachusetts Special Commission on Combatting Antisemitism (Special Commission).

The Commission's attention to the problem of antisemitism in Massachusetts, including the dramatic rise in incidents and their intensity, is long overdue. As people who are deeply involved in the life of our community, we are ever more aware that the rise in antisemitism and hate are problems that demand our interest and concern.

The Commission's Final Report includes recommendations for employers and the workplace that "promote education, cultural awareness, belonging and allyship, providing employees with safe spaces for connection and support." These are sensible steps that every workplace can follow as best practices to build a culture of inclusion for all. The Commission's recommendations for K-12 education, higher education, public safety and law enforcement similarly offer concrete, reasonable steps to promote inclusion for all and to address the root causes of bias and hate.

The explosion of antisemitism and hate is not only harmful to our colleagues, friends, and neighbors – it also threatens Massachusetts' competitiveness. Attracting and retaining the best and brightest talent in Massachusetts is critical to the Commonwealth's competitiveness. Biased and hateful activity toward Jews and Israeli-Americans risks driving talent and investment to other states. The Commission Report, and these workplace recommendations specifically, provide guidance to employers for policies that protect Jewish employees from antisemitic harassment or bias, while serving as a strategy for the recruitment and retention of the world renowned talent that drives our economic success.

The Special Commission has endeavored to chart a path for combating antisemitism in the Commonwealth that is faithful to our values, promoting inclusion while respecting civil rights and civil liberties. Its findings and recommendations form a playbook of best practices for the use and benefit of state and local government actors, community leaders, employers, and all residents of the Commonwealth who seek to stamp out this oldest and shape-shifting form of hate. We are grateful to the Special Commission for shining a light on antisemitism and hate, and for providing actionable steps to address it, as part of our shared commitment to combating all forms of hate in our Commonwealth.

Signed By:

Christopher Anderson, Massachusetts High Technology Council

Jay Ash, Massachusetts Competitive Partnership

James Brett, The New England Council

Bithiah Carter, Give Black Alliance

JD Chesloff, Massachusetts Business Roundtable

Herby Duverné, Windwalker Group

John Fish, Suffolk

Steven Grossman, Initiative for a Competitive Inner City

Doug Howgate, Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation

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