

STATE OF NEBRASKA



Proclamation

WHEREAS,

Jewish values, culture, and contributions have helped shape the character of the United States of America, the State of Nebraska, and our local communities; and

WHEREAS,

In spite of all that Jewish Americans have contributed to this country and State, Jewish people continue to be a targeted minority in the United States, as further evidenced by data showing that Jews are consistently the most likely of all religious groups to be victimized by incidents of hate, and that such incidents are increasing at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS,

Antisemitism, including harassment on the basis of actual or perceived Jewish origin, ancestry, ethnicity, identity, affiliation, or faith, remains a persistent, pervasive, and disturbing problem in contemporary American society with antisemitic attacks hitting an all-time high in the United States in 2022; and

WHEREAS,

Indeed, since the barbaric attacks by Hamas against Israel on October 7, 2023, and Israel's corresponding defensive actions against Hamas and other Iran-backed terrorists, anti-Israel denunciations, rhetoric, and demonstrations have crossed into outright antisemitism; and

WHEREAS,

While there can be no exhaustive definition of antisemitism in all its many forms, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism has been an essential definitional tool used to determine contemporary manifestations of antisemitism, providing that "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities;" and

WHEREAS,

The IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism is used by agencies of the United States Government; has been adopted across the world by at least 43 countries; and in 2022 was first adopted by the State of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS,

Use of the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism continues to increase awareness and understanding of the parameters of contemporary anti-Jewish and anti-Israel discrimination in certain contexts, and is, therefore, worthy of reaffirmation by the State of Nebraska as the policy of this State.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Jim Pillen, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM

That it is the official policy of the State of Nebraska to support the safety and security of Nebraska's Jewish communities; and

That it is the official policy of the State of Nebraska to condemn antisemitism in the strongest possible terms, as well as public statements and demonstrations that seek to normalize or justify terrorist violence and support for Hamas; and

That the State of Nebraska's adoption of the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism should be, and hereby is, REAFFIRMED

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Twenty-first day of November, in the year Two Thousand Twenty-three.

Attest:



Collen Szelicki, Chief Deputy
Secretary of State

Jim Pillen
Governor