



JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL
of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties

For Immediate Release
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California Jewish Community to House Leadership: Take Action to Protect Democracy

A diverse coalition of more than 110 Jewish community organizations and leaders from across California, led by the San Francisco-based Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), the California Legislative Jewish Caucus and the JCRC of Silicon Valley, today called on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy to come together to confront hyperpartisanship and rising extremism in our politics.

In the sign-on letter released today, the coalition urged House leaders to publicly affirm their commitment to “the foundational elements of our democratic republic, working together to rebuild the public’s trust” in the wake of the alarming and tragic events of January 6.

Paramount among the coalition’s concerns are the rising threats of domestic terrorism and online disinformation. The coalition is also calling for Congressional oversight to ensure law enforcement responds fully to the Capitol riot and to ensure an effective and equitable response to future civil unrest on federal property.

“For the Jewish community these concerns go beyond inflammatory rhetoric or abstract concepts of civility and speak directly to security. It was not lost on us that some of the rioters wore explicitly antisemitic clothing celebrating Jewish persecution,” said Tyler Gregory, Executive Director of the San Francisco-based JCRC. “The Jewish American experience has taught us that our future depends on civil discourse and a strong democracy. Our community needs to know that our leaders will not only guarantee our safety in the short run but also safeguard the norms and institutions upon which that safety is predicated.”

“Watching hundreds of our fellow Americans violently attack the U.S. Capitol was a chilling reminder of how easily hateful rhetoric can provoke hate-fueled violence,” said Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel (D-Encino), Chair of the California Legislative Jewish Caucus. “As a community deeply rooted in thoughtful discourse, social justice, and civic engagement, we must work to rebuild the democratic norms and institutions which are essential to our safety and fundamental to our Jewish and American values. We cannot continue down this path.”

The full letter and list of supporters is below.

About JCRC

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, one of 125 JCRCs nationwide, brings together and strengthens the Bay Area Jewish community. By building bridges and working in coalition with diverse ethnic, faith, political and civic communities, JCRC is strengthening the pillars of a healthy society that Jews and our neighbors need to thrive, together.



January 14, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
90 7th Street, Suite 2-800
San Francisco, CA 94103

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
4100 Empire Drive, Suite 150
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

The California Jewish community is appalled by the events on January 6 in Washington, DC. The violence and extremism on display underscores serious concerns about the security of Jewish and other targeted Americans. We are therefore asking for your leadership to:

- Pass bipartisan legislation to confront and address the rising threats of domestic terrorism and online disinformation.
- Provide Congressional oversight to ensure all relevant law enforcement agencies fully investigate the events of January 6 and are supported in their efforts to hold relevant individuals and groups accountable for any illegal and dangerous actions.
- Provide Congressional oversight to ensure effective and equitable law enforcement procedures when responding to civil unrest on federal property.

The Jewish American experience has taught us that our future depends on a strong democracy. When civility and trust in our system of government erode, our democratic protections are no longer guaranteed. We therefore turn to you as congressional leaders to publicly affirm your commitment to the foundational elements of our democratic republic, working together to rebuild the public’s trust.

We, the undersigned Jewish organizations and community leaders, are counting on you to help unite us and uphold our country’s democratic values by adopting the above actions. We look forward to your leadership in bringing us together around our common principles to restore civility in America.

Sincerely,

Tyler Gregory
JCRC Executive Director

Paul Resnick
JCRC President

Diane Fisher
JCRC of Silicon Valley Director

Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel
Chair, California Legislative Jewish

Senator Scott Wiener
Vice Chair, California Legislative Jewish

Organizations

American Jewish Committee California
Berkeley Hillel
Brandeis Marin
California Jewish Legislative Caucus
Chochmat HaLev, Berkeley
Congregation Beth Am, Los Altos Hills
Congregation Beth Emek, Pleasanton
Congregation Beth Israel Judea, San Francisco
Congregation Beth Sholom, San Francisco
Congregation B'nai Emunah, San Francisco
Congregation B'nai Shalom, Walnut Creek
Congregation Emanu-El, San Francisco
Congregation Etz Chayim, Palo Alto
Congregation Kol Emeth, Mountain View
Congregation Kol Shofar, Marin
Congregation Rodef Sholom, Marin
Congregation Sherith Israel, San Francisco
Diablo Valley Hadassah
Faith In Action East Bay
Hadassah Southern California
Hillel at Stanford
Hillel of San Diego
Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda, and Contra Costa Counties
Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley
Jewish Community Relations Council, Sacramento
Jewish Community Center of the East Bay
Jewish Community Center of San Francisco
Jewish Community Center, Sonoma County
Jewish Education and Information Council of Rossmoor
Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties
Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley
Jewish Federation of Central California
Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys
Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region
Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley
Jewish Gateways, Berkeley
Jewish LearningWorks
Jewish Long Beach
Jewish Family & Children's Services of Long Beach & West Orange County
Keddem Congregation, Palo Alto
National Council of Jewish Women, San Francisco Section
Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center
Oakland Hebrew Day School
Oshman Family Jewish Community Center
Peninsula Jewish Community Center
Peninsula Sinai Congregation
Peninsula Temple Sholom, Burlingame
San Francisco Hillel
Santa Cruz Hillel
Sinai Memorial Chapel Chevra Kadisha, San Francisco
Tawonga Jewish Community Corp.
Temple Beth Abraham, Oakland
Temple Beth David, Westminster
Temple Beth El of Bakersfield
Temple Beth Ohr, La Mirada
Temple Beth Shalom, Long Beach

Temple Beth Torah, Fremont
Temple Emanu-El of San Diego
Temple Isaiah of Contra Costa County,
Lafayette Temple Israel, Stockton
The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento
Region Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Individuals

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Rabbi Samuel Barth
Rabbi Alexis Berk
Rabbi Andi Berlin
Rabbi Elisheva Beyer
Rabbi Shalom Bochner
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