

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 7, 2023

Mr. Scott L. Bok
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Office of the University Secretary
1 College Hall, Room 211
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6303

Dear Chair Bok:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, you announced the nomination of Ms. Elizabeth Magill on January 13, 2022, to serve as the ninth President of the University of Pennsylvania. Today, as members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation, we urge you and the Board of Trustees to relieve President Magill of her duties as president of the university.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas launched a large-scale terrorist attack by land, sea, and air against Israel. Families were burned alive, infants were decapitated, women were sexually assaulted, and other unthinkable acts of violence were committed. This brutal attack killed over 1,200 Israelis and more than 30 Americans and injured thousands of innocent civilians. This was the largest attack on the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

Prior to the attack, President Magill and the university hosted a Palestine Writes Literature Festival, which included antisemitic rhetoric and notable antisemites. For a campus that censors conservative voices, this guest list, which included Roger Waters, was more than welcome.

In the wake of the attack, Jewish students on the university's campus have noted an atmosphere of harassment and violence. One student, Eyal Yakoby, detailed in a recent press conference, "While I should not be here today, I am. Because 36 hours ago, I, along with most of campus, sought refuge in our rooms as classmates and professors chanted proudly for the genocide of Jews while igniting smoke bombs and defacing school property." While President Magill stood silent, Drexel University President John Fry stated, "But silence in the face of last night's demonstration of antisemitism and hate near our doorstep is not an option for me. Intimidation, vandalism, and threats of violence are never peaceful, constructive, or justifiable, and will never be tolerated at Drexel."

On Tuesday, President Magill testified before the House Education and the Workforce Committee regarding rampant antisemitism on college campuses, including at the University of Pennsylvania. During the hearing, Congresswoman Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) directed the following question to President Magill: "Does calling for the genocide of Jews violate Penn's rules or code of conduct?"

To be clear, genocide is "the deliberate killing of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group with the aim of destroying that nation or group."

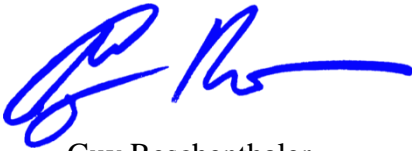
This was an easy question to answer. Undoubtedly, there is no instance in which calling for the genocide of any group of people should be deemed acceptable conduct on any campus, including your university. But in her response, President Magill refused to say whether calling for the genocide of all Jewish people is bullying and harassment according to the university's code of conduct, even smirking as she answered.

President Magill's testimony is a clear reflection of the pervasive moral and educational failures prevalent at your university and other premier universities across the country. On December 5th, she confirmed that hateful, dangerous rhetoric is welcomed on the grounds of one of the oldest higher education institutions in the United States. Her actions in front of Congress were an embarrassment to the university, its student body, and its vast network of proud alumni.

Quite frankly, it was an utter disgrace to our commonwealth and the entire nation.

Sadly, she has shown the university and the entire world that she is either incapable or unwilling to combat antisemitism on the university's campus and take care of its student body. As such, we respectfully call on you to relieve President Magill of her duties as president to protect the lives of Jewish American students at the University of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,




Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



Dan Meuser
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress



Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress