

The Florida House of Representatives

Office of the Speaker

Paul Renner Speaker

January 9, 2024

Dear Commissioner Glass:

According to the Anti-Defamation League, reported antisemitic incidents increased nationally by approximately 36% from 2021 to 2022. And although comprehensive figures for 2023 appear to be unavailable at this time, widespread media reports indicate antisemitic incidents, including harassment and vandalism, have only increased in frequency and intensity—particularly after the recent terrorist attacks in Israel. Unfortunately, the State of Florida has not been spared from this disturbing trend.

During the previous regular session, the Legislature continued its ongoing effort to combat antisemitism by passing House Bill 269, which the Governor signed on April 28, 2023. In light of the persistence of antisemitic activity, however, we need more law enforcement attention on this growing problem.

Accordingly, I request FDLE create a task force to establish dedicated resources to investigate and initiate appropriate prosecutions in coordination with local law enforcement and prosecutors. By establishing this taskforce, we can ensure antisemitic conduct violating Florida law is prosecuted aggressively and with the benefit of FDLE's institutional capabilities.

I appreciate your attention to this important issue.

Respectfully,

Paul Renner Speaker