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January 8, 2021

The Honorable Mary Miller  
1529 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Miller:

Our organization represents over 1500 traditional, Orthodox rabbis in American public policy. We are acutely aware of Anti-Semitism's signs and symptoms throughout history. We, like many others, have viewed the video in which you are heard saying, "Hitler was right about one thing: 'Whoever has the youth has the future.'"

Many have taken offense and rebuked you, and claimed that Hitler was right about nothing. Some have even called for your resignation.


We respectfully disagree. While mentioning Hitler was distasteful, it is important that we learn from the counsel of our enemies. This is why we learn from Haman, the evil chancellor of the Book of Esther, who was Hitler's predecessor and role model, and from Titus, the Roman general who ethnically cleansed the Jews from Israel 2000 years ago.

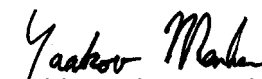
A better model for your lesson would have been the Book of Deuteronomy, 6:7-8, which reads: "And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your hearts; And you shall teach them to your children and speak of them..." Teaching our children is so central in Jewish thought that we are commanded to recite this passage twice every day. And those who have done so for the past 3,300 years are able to testify to its effectiveness.

We see the danger of indoctrination of the youth played out on college campuses across America today. We are disappointed to see many ignore your truly critical underlying message, and instead use your perhaps ill-advised example to issue politically-motivated calls for your resignation.

You stated today that you "will always be a strong advocate and ally of the Jewish community." We appreciate this sentiment, accept your apology, and look forward to working with you to advance policies that benefit all Americans, as we do with all of your colleagues in Congress.

Yours Sincerely,

  
Rabbi Pesach Lerner  
President

  
Rabbi Yaakov Menken  
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