



November 25, 2025

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To: Wendy S. White, Senior Vice President & General Counsel for the University of Pennsylvania & Penn Medicine; and Deborah W. Frey, Association General Counsel & Chief Investigator for the University of Pennsylvania

Dear Ms. White and Ms. Frey,

We are writing as the Executive Committee of the Association for Jewish Studies, the world's largest professional society for Jewish Studies, regarding the recent EEOC filing that seeks to enforce a subpoena against the University of Pennsylvania. We firmly support efforts to protect the civil rights of all members of campus communities. For this reason, we are deeply dismayed by the EEOC's demands that not only infringe on the privacy of faculty, students, and staff but specifically target Jewish members of the Penn community. We support the university's statements that it will not comply with any unlawful federal demands to provide lists of names and personal information of campus members affiliated with Penn's Jewish cultural, religious, and academic units.

Our organization's members include some of the foremost scholars of antisemitism and its connection to political repression and violence. Their scholarship informs our understanding of the grave consequences that have followed as direct and indirect results of government-based efforts to compile lists of Jews or other minority communities. Regardless of the EEOC's intention, this history looms large in our concerns about its requests. Compliance with the current order would violate the privacy of and pose a threat to the safety of Jews and others who have engaged with Jewish life or scholarship at Penn. No member of the Penn community should feel as if their participation in Jewish life, academic endeavors, or civil rights actions jeopardizes their privacy, nor should they worry that these activities will land them on a list provided to the government.

We urge Penn to continue to protect all members of its community by upholding civil rights law, safeguarding academic freedom, and respecting the privacy of faculty, students, and staff.

Sincerely,

Laura Leibman, President, Association for Jewish Studies
Helen Kim, VP of Program, Association for Jewish Studies
Laura Lieber, VP of Publications, Association for Jewish Studies
Hartley Lachter, VP of Membership and Outreach, Association for Jewish Studies
Lila Corwin Berman, Secretary/Treasurer, Association for Jewish Studies
Robin Judd, Past President, Association for Jewish Studies