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CO-CHAIR

November 24, 2026

Dr. Nancy Cantor
President
Hunter College
695 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Dear President Cantor:

I am writing to you as the co-chair Combatting Antisemitism on College Campuses Caucus, regarding the abrupt cancellation of Hunter College's Cultural Arts Night, which was scheduled for November 16, 2026. This event would have brought together five student organizations, including Hillel, for a celebration of the many cultures represented on campus.

Hunter's Undergraduate Student Government first announced that the event did not align with its values and that mistakes had been made within the student government. It then issued a second statement citing "safety concerns" and saying several participating student organizations had withdrawn during planning. Hunter College Hillel has publicly stated that it had no role in the decision to cancel.

As you are aware, with antisemitism at an all-time high on our college campuses, it is important that we get a clear understanding of what happened to ensure that Jewish student participation was not the reason for the event's cancellation. If it is true that the event was canceled because of Hillel's participation, that is not a scheduling problem. It is the exclusion of Jewish students from campus life at a public institution that receives federal funds, and it would squarely implicate Hunter's obligations under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Roughly 1,500 Jewish undergraduates attend Hunter, and they are entitled to the same access to student-funded programming as everyone else.

Given these concerns, I ask that you respond to the following as soon as possible:

1. Has Hunter College determined whether any student organization withdrew because of Hillel's participation, and whether that was the basis for canceling the event?
2. Will Hunter College open a formal Title VI review? If so, on what timeline, and will the findings be shared with the campus community?

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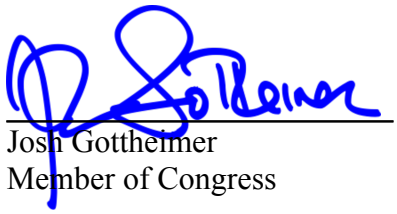
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3. What rules govern student-fee-funded programming, and what consequences follow if a recognized student organization is excluded because of religion, shared ancestry, or national origin?

4. Will Cultural Arts Night be rescheduled with Hillel included, and on what date?

Jewish students at Hunter College should not have to wonder whether they are welcome at their own school's cultural night. Please respond in writing no later than December 1, 2026.

Sincerely,



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

cc: Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, Chancellor, The City University of New York