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The Honorable Edgar Flores

Chair, Senate Government Affairs Committee

401 S. Carson St.

Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Nevada Senate Bill 179

Dear Chair Flores,

On behalf of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), we are writing to support the adoption of Nevada Senate Bill 179 (SB 179).

Founded in 1913 in response to an escalating climate of antisemitism and bigotry, ADL is widely recognized as a leading anti-hate organization. Today, we continue to fight all forms of antisemitism and bigotry as we seek to create a more just and inclusive society. Our ultimate goal is a world in which no group or individual suffers from bias, discrimination, or hate.

Antisemitism and hate crimes against the Jewish community are on the rise. In 2023, ADL tabulated 8,873 antisemitic incidents across the United States, the highest number ever recorded by ADL. This represents a 140% increase year over year demonstrating a growing crisis in our communities. SB 179 is a step in the right direction in providing a simple definition of antisemitism for the state of Nevada. Such a definition provides valuable guidance for the Nevada Equal Rights Commission on how antisemitism manifests itself in the state and provides understanding to help educate others about anti-Jewish bias.

While the definition outlined in SB 179 is an excellent foundation, we encourage the inclusion of additional language that provides contemporary examples to fully capture the complexity of antisemitism today. Such additions would strengthen the bill and provide even more effective guidance to the Nevada Equal Rights Commission.

In a time of rising antisemitism and hate, we continue to encourage the Senate Government Affairs Committee to pass Nevada Senate Bill 179 with our suggested amendments through committee. Please feel free to reach out if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Jolie Brislin
Regional Director
ADL Nevada

Joel Mann
Regional Board Chair
ADL Nevada

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