



Peter Kilpatrick  
Office of the President  
The Catholic University of America  
620 Michigan Avenue NE  
Washington, DC 20064

Dear President Kilpatrick and Catholic University of America Administration,

On behalf of Students Supporting Israel (SSI) National, we write to express our deep concern and unequivocal opposition to the university's recent decision to deny SSI's requests to host speakers addressing antisemitism and Israeli security. As reported by Washington Jewish Week and Inside Higher Ed, the administration conditioned approval of these events on the inclusion of opposing viewpoints, effectively requiring Jewish and pro-Israel students to platform perspectives that may justify, minimize, or debate their own lived experiences of antisemitism. This is not a neutral policy decision. It sets a deeply troubling precedent by placing an unfair and discriminatory burden on one group of students, forcing them to justify hosting an event and ultimately denying approval simply because they refuse to platform voices that are hostile to them based on their Zionist identity.

SSI chapters exist to provide a clear, confident, and unapologetic pro-Israel voice on campus. Forcing these students to "balance" their events by including speakers who may oppose the existence of the state of Israel or challenge the legitimacy of their concerns about antisemitism is not an exercise in academic freedom. It is forced speech. No other student organization is required to platform opposition to its core mission as a condition of participation in campus life. As the SSI at Catholic University President, Felipe mentioned in the article, "the College Democrats recently held an event featuring an activist who advocates for legalized, expanded abortion access, without an opposing speaker." To impose such a requirement selectively on Jewish and pro-Israel students raises serious concerns about unequal treatment and viewpoint discrimination, particularly at a time when antisemitism on college campuses is demonstrably rising.

Moreover, this decision undermines the university's own stated commitment to free expression and open inquiry. A university cannot claim to foster intellectual diversity while simultaneously restricting students' ability to organize events aligned with their beliefs unless they dilute or counterbalance their message. Educational environments thrive when students are empowered to explore, advocate, and engage, without administrative intimidation dictating the content of their speech. If the university believes in the value of diverse perspectives, it should encourage additional programming, not mandate it as a prerequisite that alters the integrity of student-led initiatives.

We urge the administration to immediately reverse its decision, approve SSI's events as originally proposed, and issue a clear public statement affirming that student organizations will not be required to host opposing viewpoints as a condition for event approval. SSI National stands firmly with our chapter at Catholic University and every SSI chapter across the country in demanding policies that are fair, consistent, and rooted in genuine respect for free expression.

Sincerely,

The Students Supporting Israel Movement.