

March 16, 2017

Dr. Denise M. Trauth
President
Texas State University
601 University Drive
J.C. Kellam, 10th Floor
San Marcos, Texas 78666

Dear President Trauth:

We write to you today to express our appreciation to you for your thoughtful and important statement denouncing the threatening, hateful and anti-Semitic fliers found on the campus of Texas State University on March 2 as well as the hateful and offensive fliers found several other times on campus over the past several months. We welcome your reassurances that "the deplorable sentiments" expressed on the fliers violate the University's core values, that campus police continue to investigate these troubling incidents, and that you are committed to ensuring an inclusive and supportive environment for all.

We appreciate your concerns about giving "the perpetrators the attention they so desperately seek" as you considered whether or not to make a public statement about this fourth round of fliering on the campus. We believe that when a university responds as you did with a strong statement condemning these fliers, it sends an important message of community and respect to all students and beyond the campus environment. We recall the words of Elie Wiesel's Nobel Prize acceptance speech, when he said, "Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, ... sensitivities become irrelevant. Wherever men or women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must – at that moment – become the center of the universe." Indeed we as the ADL believe there must never be a time when we fail to protest in response to anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry. Moreover, these incidents of hatred can be used as a learning opportunity for the students to reinforce the positive values of the university as a place where students of all faiths and backgrounds are welcome and a part of the campus family.

Please know that ADL is able to be a resource to you and your team responsible for addressing these issues at Texas State University. Our [Taking Action on Campus](#) resources can be helpful as you consider best practices and our [Responding to Bigotry and Intergroup Strife on Campus](#) has some especially helpful information. We can also offer hate crimes training for your campus police and other faculty.

We have been in touch with your campus police and appreciate all that they are doing to find those responsible for posting the fliers as well.

In closing, please don't hesitate to contact ADL if additional incidents happen or as you consider additional possible steps to address these incidents. Our colleague, Renee Lafair, has been in touch with you previously and has passed along your recent email to us. ADL's Southwest

Region, which is based in Houston, covers San Marcos. We are very willing to visit with you in person or by phone and look forward to staying in touch with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

Dayan Gross
ADL's Southwest Regional Director

Jodi Bernstein
ADL's Senior Associate Regional Director