



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1403

December 20, 2023

Butler University
Office of the President
4600 Sunset Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46208

President Danko,

I write to you today regarding reports that Butler University launched a formal investigation into Butler College Republicans following the club's statement condemning antisemitic chants at an event cosponsored by a fellow student group, Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP).

During a protest at Monument Circle on October 12th in downtown Indianapolis, video recorded by journalist Tony Kinnett includes evidence of protestors chanting, "Not a victim, not a crime!" and "[f]rom the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!"

These chants refer to the October 7th attack on Israel and are a call for the destruction of the world's only Jewish state.

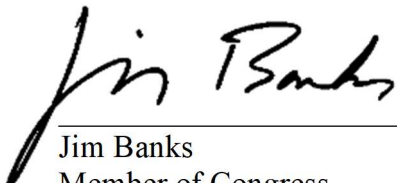
When the Butler University Chapter of College Republicans issued a statement condemning these hateful chants, it cited the university's non-discrimination policy. Before any conclusion or resolution had been made, Azure Swinford, Butler's associate director for institutional equity and Title IX coordinator, demanded College Republicans remove their post condemning the chants. Shortly thereafter, your administration launched an investigation into its College Republicans chapter, claiming the group had "falsely accused" SJP of antisemitism and "incited violence" against Muslim students on campus.

On October 9, 2023, SJP's national headquarters began organizing a "National Day of Resistance" in support of Hamas's terrorist attack. It is worth noting that SJP chapters at Columbia University, Rutgers University, George Washington University, Brandeis University and the University of Florida have all been suspended or permanently deactivated for espousing antisemitism or violating other campus policies.

Your investigation not only risks having a chilling effect on students' free speech, but reasonably could lead outside observers, including myself, to believe that Butler University is targeting its College Republicans chapter because of its own political biases.

Given the limited reporting and information surrounding these events, I ask that your office respond to the following questions by January 5th, 2024:

- What evidence did your office have that College Republicans “falsely accused” Students for Justice in Palestine of antisemitic chants before launching a formal investigation?
- What was the basis for demanding College Republicans remove an Instagram post and limit their free speech before the conclusion of your investigation?
- Did the Butler University’s Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion launch a formal investigation into Students for Justice in Palestine following reports of antisemitic chants at the October 12th Monument Circle protest?
- How many reports of antisemitic incidents on campus have been reported since the October 7th terrorist attack? How many of these reports have been investigated?



Jim Banks
Member of Congress