

CLERGY LETTER CONCERNING ANTI-SEMITIC RHETORIC OF IMPEACHMENT OF SECRETARY MAYORKAS

We, the undersigned Jewish clergy reflecting a broad swath of American geography and denominations, are deeply concerned by the effort to impeach Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. We believe that this act embraces and emboldens dangerous antisemitic, white-supremacist and anti-immigrant conspiracy theories.

Five years ago, the deadliest attack ever perpetrated against Jews on U.S. soil was grounded in the great replacement conspiracy which accuses Jews of usurping white identity and power through orchestrating the immigration of people of color. These dangerous and dehumanizing conspiracy theories fuel the bigotry and divisiveness that have led violent actors to harm and kill Jewish, Black, Latino, Muslim and other people in multiple targeted, hate-inspired attacks. Members of Congress now echo this language, accusing Secretary Mayorkas, who identifies as Jewish, of spearheading an “invasion” and “replacement” of Americans.

As leaders of the Jewish community who have shepherded our communities through the most unprecedented era of antisemitism in our lifetime, we condemn this move to impeach Secretary Mayorkas. We do not wish to quash legitimate policy differences and debates among our elected officials. Such debates are critical to our democracy. But we know firsthand that the normalization and amplification of such dangerous rhetoric on display in this impeachment process have the real potential to translate into violence and harm against our communities.