A Proclamation

Whereas, We must never forget the horrific events of the Holocaust, the 6 million Jewish lives lost during the most tragic genocide in modern history; and

Whereas, Antisemitism is an evil that threatens, not only those who subscribe to the Jewish faith, but all people, no matter creed or background; and

Whereas, Antisemitism is a challenge to the basic principles of tolerance, pluralism, and democracy, and the shared values that bind Americans and many allies together; and

Whereas, In 2016, the Working Definition of Antisemitism was formally adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), which, at the time, comprised 31 countries, including the United States; and

Whereas, The IHRA has defined antisemitism as a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews, and rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities; and

Whereas, Antisemitism threatens public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere; and

Whereas, Antisemitism is multifaceted and multiform, manifesting in many ways, making it easier to spread and harder to combat; and

Whereas, State officials and institutions can play a powerful role in promoting values of tolerance and pluralism and in protecting citizens from acts of hate and bigotry motivated by discriminatory animus, including antisemitism; and

Whereas, An essential tool in combating antisemitism is the ability to define antisemitism in each of its multiple forms; and

Whereas, The IHRA Working Definition provides a clear, comprehensive, and non-legally binding definition that can be used to determine contemporary manifestations of antisemitism including Holocaust distortion or denial, prejudices against Jews, and the denial of Israel’s right to exist; and

Whereas, Together, we clearly identify hate, transform it into positive change and turn darkness into light,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim that,

MASSACHUSETTS ENDORSES THE WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

ESTABLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this definition.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this eighteenth day of February, in the year two thousand and twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fifth.

By His Excellency

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

KARYN E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts