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May 1, 2023

Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies  
Ramapo College of New Jersey  
505 Ramapo Valley Road  
Mahwah, NJ 07430

Dear Friends:

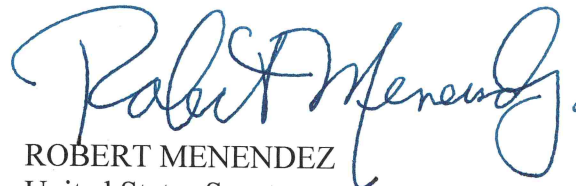
Thank you for the invitation to attend today's ceremony welcoming the Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies' Memorial Torah Scroll. While I had hoped to be with you personally, please accept my sincere congratulations on this momentous occasion.

I commend the Gross Center for providing an indispensable resource to educate our Northern New Jersey community and open our eyes to the horrors of the Holocaust and all historical genocides. Your work in promoting an understanding of the consequences of antisemitism, racism, and all forms of bigotry is critical to combatting today's atmosphere of increasing intolerance. The innovative programming you provide helps to ensure that every generation will know the strength required to fight back against such hatred.

The Torah scroll you will display is a testament to astounding resiliency in surviving the purges of the Nazi regime in Europe, and bore witness to atrocities most of us can hardly imagine. Your stewardship of this Torah will continue the legacy of the Jews of Kolin, a community which lasted approximately 540 years before it was decimated by the Nazis. Its exhibition here in New Jersey will ensure that the community they built and they lost to such senseless violence will never be forgotten.

Mazel Tov to the Gross Center on its selection for the solemn honor of housing this scroll and ensuring that its story continues to be told to future generations. Best wishes in all of your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



ROBERT MENENDEZ  
United States Senator

RM:jr