

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 10, 2022

Vincent E. Price, Ph.D.
President, Duke University
207 Allen Building
Box 90001
Durham, NC 27708

Dear President Price,

I write to you to express my concern over the Duke Student Government's decision to deny formal recognition to Students Supporting Israel. It is my understanding that Students Supporting Israel met all appropriate recognition criteria, and the decision by the Duke Student Government was arbitrary and biased.

College should be a place of robust discourse, where all sides are given fair opportunity to voice their position. Denying a student group recognition based on personal or political differences weakens the legitimacy of any academic institution. More voices, more viewpoints, and more debate will always be beneficial to the student body. Robust debate is an important part of college development.

It is no secret that academia harbors its own predilections, and I have fought many times for conservative and libertarian groups to be represented on college campuses. It should be paramount to Duke University that Students Supporting Israel's recognition process remains objective, and their status as an official student organization does not hinge on broader predispositions held by some. It is my hope that Duke reevaluates the decision, and Students Supporting Israel are given full recognition as a student organization.

Senator Rand Paul, M.D.

