

SENATOR BECCA RAUSCH

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NAJL STANDS STRONG AGAINST USE OF SECRET POLICE

*The National Association of Jewish Legislators (NAJL) expresses outrage
and significant opposition to the use of secret police on U.S. soil*

The National Association of Jewish Legislators (NAJL) expresses our outrage and significant opposition to the use of secret police on U.S. soil, being deployed by the acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Chad Wolf and President Donald Trump.

The use of unidentified federal agents driving unmarked vans and detaining protestors without basis to arrest them is un-American. The tactics, which have seen uniformed officers spray tear gas on peaceful protestors, shoot journalists and veterans with rubber pellets and pull bystanders into rented minivans and taken into custody, have provoked harsh criticism across the political spectrum, from members of Congress and civil libertarians, local leaders and former Republican and Democratic Administration officials alike.

“As the granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor, I’m deeply familiar with the history and the very real terror the federal government invokes when it releases secret police on civilians. We must all speak out any time we witness acts of hate, bigotry, and fear, and as elected officials, we cannot allow hate to be formally marshalled against our communities through the very systems of government that are meant to protect us all,” said **NAJL board member Senator Becca Rausch (D – Needham)**.

“The use of secret police is all too reminiscent for the Jewish community of the SS, the private army of the Nazi Regime,” explained **Utah Rep. Patrice Arent and co-president of NAJL**.

SS chief Heinrich Himmler turned the regular police forces into an instrument of terror and forged the Secret State Police known as the Gestapo. The Gestapo's main mission was to identify and arrest political opponents of the Nazi regime. The Gestapo arrested and killed Socialists, Communists, trade union

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leaders and other political opponents without trial. By mid-1933, democracy was effectively eliminated in Germany.

In the words of Martin Niemöller, a German Lutheran pastor who rejected Nazism when Hitler insisted on the supremacy of the state over religion,

*First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a socialist.*

*Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a trade unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.*

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

As elected state leaders across the country, we are speaking out for all those being targeted, arrested and injured by the unwelcomed and unidentified secret police in Portland, Chicago and wherever else they may be deployed.

“Sending Department of Homeland Security agents into cities where they use brutal tactics against protestors, journalists, veterans and onlookers is not welcome in our cities, states or country and is antithetical to our Constitutional democracy,” said **Oregon Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward and NAJL board member**.

We call on President Trump and acting DHS Secretary Chad Wolf to immediately halt the use of secret police. Furthermore, we support efforts to challenge these activities via federal courts and hope the courts will forcefully forbid all tactics that violate our U.S. Constitutional rights.

Signed by the Following NAJL National Board Members:

Rep. Patrice Arent, (UT) Co-President
Assemblyman David Weprin, (NY), Co-President
Assemblywoman Ellen Spiegel, (NV) Secretary
Rep. Dafna Michaelson Genet (CO), Treasurer
Rep. Tana Senn (WA)
Senator Ben Allen (CA)
Senator Becca Rausch (MA)
Assemblyman Charles Lavine (NY), State Chapter President
Rep. Dan Frankel (PA)

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Rep. Rick Stark (FL), State Chapter Chair
Senator Shelly Hettleman (MD)
Senator Sandy Pappas (MN)
Delegate Jon Cardin (MD)
Senator Sara Feigenholtz (IL)
Assemblywoman Lisa Subeck (WI)
Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward (OR)
Senator Linda Greenstein (NJ)
Rep. Emily Slosberg (FL)
Rep. Mike Gottlieb (FL)

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Senator Becca Rausch represents the Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex District, comprised of Attleboro, Franklin, Millis, Natick, Needham, Norfolk, North Attleborough, Plainville, Sherborn, Wayland, Wellesley, and Wrentham. Currently in her first term, Senator Rausch serves as the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government and the Senate Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs.