

COLUMBUS JEWISH FOUNDATION ROBINS CENTER FOR PHILANTHROPY

A **JEWISHCOLUMBUS** Partner

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America is a democracy in which even Jew-haters, fanatics, and fascists have the freedom to hold their opinion, no matter how odious.

In this country, even religious nuts have the right to believe that Jews should kneel before the cross. Bone-headed, misdirected, and mean-spirited as they may be, they have the right to vote and the right to assemble.

Despite their ignorance, fools can even congregate outside an elected official's private residence—which is exactly what they have done, very publicly, and with no shame-- outside of Ohio State Representative Casey Weinstein's home.

Individuals who value our democracy, freedom of religion, Bill of Rights, and Constitution would be well-served to remember Thomas Jefferson's admonitions about the price of freedom: "A strict observance of the written law is doubtless one of the high duties of a good citizen, but it is not the highest. The laws of necessity, of self-preservation, of saving our country when in danger, are of a higher obligation.....to lose our country by a scrupulous adherence to written law would be to lose the law itself, with life, liberty, property and all those who are enjoying them with us; thus absurdly sacrificing the ends to the means."

If ever there was a time for good citizens to decry those who undermine our liberties in the name of liberty, it is now. The price of freedom is eternal vigilance. People of conscience must rally against the bullies and hatemongers who threaten Casey Weinstein. They threaten not merely Casey Weinstein and his family, and not only the Jews; they threaten all Americans.



Jackie Jacobs
Executive Director Emeritus
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