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Dear Neighbours,

In these challenging times, our community's safety remains a top priority. Our government unequivocally condemns all forms of hate, and there is zero tolerance for antisemitism, islamophobia or any other form of hate in Ontario.

I want to make it very clear that our government will always ensure the safety of ALL Ontarians, irrespective of faith, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or colour of skin.

I have been working hard with our government and community partners to ensure the safety of our community. I'm pleased to share that last week in the legislature we passed Motion 18 - in Defense of Israel.

It was an honour to speak to this motion, to showcase the light in our community of Thornhill during these difficult times. I am grateful to my caucus colleagues who spoke to this motion, showing their support for our community.



*Speaking to Motion 18: In Defense of Israel - because Israel, is not that far away.*

In our ongoing commitment to ensure the safety of our community and all communities across the province, I am pleased to share my new Private Members Bill, Change of Name Amendment Act, 2023. If passed, this act will close a long-standing loophole and ensure our efforts are directed to victims and not the offenders.

As we continue to navigate this difficult time, there are resources available to help.

My office is here to help. My office is here to support. My office is here to listen.

Best wishes from my family to yours,

*Laura Smith*

Laura Smith, MPP-Thornhill



*It was an honour to welcome so many members of our Jewish community, and the Israel Consul to Queen's Park as we debated Motions 18 and 19.*

*Standing together with the students of the University of Toronto.*



*Hummus - not Hamas! I was pleased to join my caucus colleagues in supporting this amazing business during this difficult time.*

*I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated officers of the York Region Police. This special command post*

set up outside of the Promenade Mall - thank you for your service and for keeping our communities safe.



*Change of Name Amendment Act, 2023*

A new name is an opportunity for a new life, which is something that the victims of these sexual offenders can never have. This is why MPP Laurie Scott and I tabled Bill 138, *Change of Name Amendment Act, 2023* last week, to close this loophole. Sexual offenders who have committed horrific crimes should not be allowed to change their names and hide their identities.

Learn More - <https://laurasmithmpp.ca/an-act-to-amend-the-name-change-act-2023/>



*Earlier this month our community experienced an unimaginable tragedy when Atara Cohen z"l lost her life. It was an honour to have been able to stand in the House and speak to her memory.*



*Had an amazing time at Chris Ainsworth's first ever Dog Halloween Costume Contest! So great to see our community come together - thank you to everyone who attended and participated, and a special thank you to the York Regional Police, firefighters4vaughan, the sponsors - including Dave Elfassy, and all the amazing vendors that donated their time to be a part of the event!*