



THIRD WAY

April 1, 2026

Abdul El-Sayed
PO Box 126
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080

Dear Dr. El-Sayed:

Your plan to campaign with Hasan Piker during stops next month at the University of Michigan and Michigan State is a mistake. We argued in the *Wall Street Journal* recently that Democrats should “seek to push [Piker] to the fringe, where he belongs.” We urge you to heed this advice.

Mr. Piker is a not a good man. He has a years-long record of anti-American, anti-western, antisemitic, and misogynistic comments, and he has made clear in recent days those are not misstatements. This makes association with him much more than a political liability: it would be a stain on your character.

Still, if you insist on campaigning with an extremist like Piker just weeks after an attack on Jews at Temple Israel in Michigan, voters in your state deserve to know what you truly believe and how closely you align with his most abhorrent views:

- Do you agree with Piker that “America deserved 9/11”?
- Do you think “there’s a lot that we can learn” from the Chinese Communist Party?
- Do you share his belief that ultra-Orthodox Jews are “inbred”?
- Do you also dismiss the mass rape of Jewish and Israeli women by Hamas?
- Do you believe as he does that “Hamas is a thousand times better” than the Israeli state?
- If you do not endorse all of Piker’s views, which, specifically, do you reject?

You no doubt share our view that Trump Republicans have cast their lot with bigots. Too many in that party have been vile spreaders of prejudice, espoused and embraced by the president himself, and egged on by his allies in Congress. Democrats must not fight right-wing immorality with its left-wing counterpart. It is incumbent upon candidates and leaders in our party to hold themselves to a higher standard.

You owe it to Michigan voters to answer these questions above and put real distance between yourself and Hasan Piker’s hateful views. We hope you will do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Cowan
President, Third Way