



JOSH MANDEL
STATE TREASURER OF OHIO

Ohio House of Representatives
House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee
House Bill 476 Proponent Testimony, Deputy Treasurer Seth Metcalf
May 18, 2016

Chairman Brown, Vice Chairman Blessing, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee – good afternoon it is a pleasure to appear before you today. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of State Treasurer Josh Mandel to express his support for House Bill 476 as introduced by Representative Kirk Schuring.

House Bill 476 would prohibit state agencies from entering into or renewing contracts with companies that are boycotting, divesting, or sanctioning Israel (BDS). Favorable passage of House Bill 476 will send a strong message to Israel companies, researchers, and businesses that Ohio is open for business. It also tells the Israeli people that Ohio stands with them against terror and hate.

Eight other states have already passed similar legislation including Illinois, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Indiana, Colorado, and Arizona and Ohio should join them by passing House Bill 476.

Treasurer Mandel has been and will continue to be a strong supporter of the US-Israel relationship.

The Treasurer appreciates Representative Schuring's leadership on this important issue and asks members of this committee to join with their legislative leaders, Speaker Rosenberger and Minority Leader Strahorn, in supporting House Bill 476.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 476 as introduced by Representative Schuring. I would be happy to answer any questions.