

Rick Zwelling | Testimony in Favor of HB 476
Ohio House of Representatives | Committee on Government Accountability & Oversight
May 18, 2016 | Columbus, OH

Chairman Brown, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Clyde, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rick Zwelling. I'm a member of the Columbus Jewish community and as well a member of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Columbus Jewish Federation.

I am here today to speak in favor of HB 476.

In the 1930's, the Nazi's utilized every means possible to delegitimize and dehumanize Jews. Today, the haters of Jews have taken the Nazi playbook, refined it, expanded it, and utilized today's technology to spread it as much as possible. Constructive criticism of Israel is as acceptable as criticism of any country, but Anti-Israel is the same as Anti-Semitism.

Please make no mistake; the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanction movement is pure anti-Semitism. The funders behind this movement are not interested in two nations living side by side, but rather the elimination of the Jewish State.

I urge members of this committee to go to www.memri.org at least one time. The Middle East Media Research Institute transcribes what Arab political and religious leaders are communicating in Arabic into English. You will find that the messages given over to the media in English is not the same message that's given over to their own people.

For these reasons, a bill like HB 476 is so important.

It sends a vital message that Ohio stands against hate, and it ensures that Ohio will continue to have the chance to partner with Israel to create life-changing & life-saving advances that are changing the world we live in for the better.

Thank you.

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