



Advocating for Life, Faith, and Freedom in the Public Square

From: Chris Long, President Ohio Christian Alliance

To: The Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee

To condemn the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement against Israel and to condemn increasing incidents of anti-Semitism on Ohio college campuses.

Thank you, Chairman Blessing, and members of the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, for hearing our testimony today in support of HCR 10.

Last week, we stood before the Ohio Holocaust and Liberators Memorial to draw attention to a serious growing problem in the State of Ohio with the increased incidents of anti-Semitism on Ohio college campuses. The memorial was erected in observance of those Holocaust survivors that made Ohio their home after the war, and to the military personnel who were their liberators from the concentration camps some 70 years ago.

The Ohio Christian Alliance is pleased to lend its support to HCR 10, the resolution that Representatives Andy Thompson and David Greenspan, along with 25 other co-sponsors, have signed on to, a resolution to condemn the boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement against the State of Israel, and to condemn increasing incidents of anti-Semitism on Ohio college campuses.

Our testimony today is meant to draw attention to the fact that the Holocaust began with boycotts and discrimination. In 1933, the German government enacted a series of anti-Jewish laws restricting the rights of German Jews to earn a living, to enjoy full citizenship and to gain education, and to work in the civil service. The subsequent 1935 Nuremberg Laws stripped German Jews of their citizenship and forbade Jews to marry non-Jewish Germans. These laws resulted in the exclusion of Jews from social and political life. These boycotts culminated in the Night of Terror on November 9, 1938, known as Kristallnacht, The Night of Broken Glass, in which Jewish-owned businesses, homes, and synagogues were ransacked and burned. Many Jews were beaten and lost their lives. It is estimated that that night 30,000 Jewish men were incarcerated and sent to the concentration camps. This was the beginning of the Holocaust.

The recent boycotts and sanctions movement by some groups on college campuses in Ohio have created an atmosphere of fear and intimidation of Jewish students, as the State of Israel has been targeted, Jews specifically. Just this past week, on the eve of Yom Kippur, the most holy day on the Jewish calendar, another anti-Semitic incident took place on the campus of Ohio University in Athens, as reported by the Athens Post. Nazi swastikas were painted in the dormitories and sidewalks around the university grounds.

The liberators, Ohio veterans, in whose honor the Holocaust Memorial is partly erected, and which now stands on the South Statehouse Lawn, would be ashamed to hear that this is happening again, for they were the eye witnesses of the atrocities as they liberated the concentration camps in Europe.

Our organization is working on an effort to add FDR's D-Day Landing Prayer at the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. President Roosevelt announced to the nation by way of radio on June 6, 1944, that the liberation of Europe was underway, and asked for the nation to join him in prayer. He began by saying, "Almighty God, our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity." He closed with these words, "With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogances. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace -- a peace invulnerable to the scheming's of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all of men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil. Thy will be done, Almighty God."

After the war, in 1946, one of the Jewish synagogues was rebuilt in Berlin. It has to this day a plaque on it that reads, "Never Forget." That's why we are here today to stand with the State of Israel and with American Jews, that they will never have to face that ridicule and persecution again.

And, for that reason, we are proud to support HCR 10 today, to condemn the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement against Israel and to condemn increasing incidents of anti-Semitism on Ohio college campuses.

Thank you, Chairmen Blessing and members of the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have.