

Honorable Chairs and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify against the bill HCR10. My name is Alison Cameron and I am a senior at Oberlin College, which is within the Cleveland metropolitan area. I am a member of Oberlin's chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP). This organization has been an essential part of my Jewish identity, as it reflects my dedication to pursuing the Jewish values of justice and equality.

Our work on Oberlin's campus is met with great opposition. In Spring 2013, Oberlin College Student Senate passed a divestment resolution: the resolution proposed that Oberlin divest from six companies that profit and perpetuate the Israeli occupation. We had overwhelming support from Oberlin's community: students, staff, professors, and town residents alike. Many supporters expressed how important it is to participate in a global, non-violent movement for justice.

Ohio has already passed HB 476, which withdraws state funding to businesses which support campaigns like BDS. Free speech stalwarts like the ACLU of Ohio spoke out against this bill, as seen here: <http://www.acluohio.org/archives/press-releases/anti-boycott-legislation-violates-free-speech-rights-says-aclu>. This continued violation of our constitutional right to free speech is inexcusable and unconstitutional. We must prioritize Ohio's citizens' and students access to their right of free speech, dedication to justice, and right to stand in solidarity with Palestinian people through BDS. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Alison Cameron