

Dear Committee members:

My name is Marium Husain and I'm a physician in Columbus. I would like to bring the anti-BDS legislation to your attention. I am asking as an Ohio constituent that you do not approve HCR 10, the anti-BDS legislation.

I do not think there should be legislation blocking university campuses from promoting free speech. The university is a space for promoting this free speech and higher education. What are we promoting if we block universities and students from expressing their Constitutional right to free speech? Anti-semitism is wrong and should be fought against by all communities. BDS actions are not anti-Semitic. BDS actions promote dialogue between the two sides, they showcase documentaries, they are non-violent and their main goal is to have a member state, Israel, comply with international law and internationally recognized standards of human rights.

I work at the Ohio State University medical center that is named after a prominent Jewish man in our community, Wexner. The university benefits from the work the medical center and medical school do on a daily basis. Our community values the contributions of the Jewish community. I believe that we should also value all communities and not risk restricting one community's rights. I use science and evidence to make decisions to take care of patients. We need to be just as careful in our politics. Anti- BDS legislation has been widely opposed by religious, civil rights, and human rights organizations including American Civil Liberties Union, American Friends Service Committee, Churches for Middle East Peace, Presbyterian Church USA Office of Public Witness, Friends of Sabeel North America, Palestine Legal, Peace Not Walls (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), United Church of Christ, United Methodists for Kairos Response, and US Campaign for Palestinian Rights.

The situation in the Middle East is very complicated, and it has become a political quagmire that is currently being manipulated. Regardless of which side you support, I think the consensus is that this conflict needs to end. One way to achieve is that is by granting freedom to the Palestinians who are living under an occupation. As the United States, we are supposed to promote freedom all over the world. Supporting HCR 10 would not achieve that. Not only would it jeopardize a move to promote Palestinian freedom, but it would also follow a precedent to threaten our constitutional liberty and our first right to free speech. This preservation of free speech is paramount to what America stands for and represents. This free speech has supported humanity's right to freedom from South Africa to Rwanda and Bosnia. We can't turn our backs on protecting our Constitutional rights. Please do not vote for HCR 10.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Marium Husain, MD, MPH