

Testimony in Opposition to Ohio H.C.R. 10

Title: “To Condemn Manifestations of Anti-Semitism”

Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee

By Douglas Kerr, MD (Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118; 6/27/2018)

Chair Senator LaRose, Ranking Minority Member Senator Schiavoni and other members of the Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee:

I am a retired Pediatrician representing Interfaith Peace Builders-Ohio, which is supporting Israelis and Palestinians who are working for mutual justice and human rights.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to H.C.R.10. I testified orally before your committee on 3/21/18. **Since then, circumstances have changed.**

What is happening now at the US southwestern border, separating children from their parents has been widely condemned. This same has been happening in Greater Israel to Palestinian children within the occupied Palestinian territories. Separating children from their parents is outrageous anywhere! Hundreds of Palestinian children and teenagers are being arrested by the Israeli Defense Forces and thrown into Israeli prisons for many months or years. Their military trials are closed to the public. Their Palestinian parents frequently do not know where they are or what they are charged with. When they know, they encounter great difficulty visiting their own children. They are presented with large military court and lawyer fees which they cannot possibly pay. ([Statistics](#) : from B'TSELEM, an Israeli Human Rights Center)

The criminal charge for which they are routinely accused is “throwing stones”, without convincing evidence. Non-violent resistance by young Palestinians to the injustices of Israeli military in the occupied territories, including Gaza, is met with live fire from automatic rifles and tear gas from the IDF. Many Palestinian children are permanently injured or killed. ([details...](#))

In contrast to the illegal immigration that faces the US, Palestinians are **not** immigrants, having lived for generations and several millennia on their own land. Unlike most Americans and Israeli citizens, who are of immigrant descent, most Palestinians are native to their own country and do not have basic human rights and justice.

In H.C.R.10, criticism of Israeli government policies is conflated with real Anti-Semitism. Criticism of the Israeli government is wide spread in Israel, and should not be condemned any more than political criticism of our federal and state governments. When Americans and the world became aware of the US government’s policies that separated children from their parents, these policies were condemned by the Pope, the American Pediatric Association, and many members of both political parties. The outrage resulted in reversal of that executive order.

As elected Ohio public legislators, why do you want to vote for a resolution that is anti-free speech, violates the First Amendment of the US Constitution, against American core values, and hurts children?

Thank you for reading this written testimony!