

Testimony in Opposition to Ohio HCR 10
Ohio Senate Committee on Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce
Pamela H. Beck
June 27, 2018

Senator LaRose, Senator Schiavoni and distinguished members of the Transportation, Commerce and Workforce committee. I am Pamela Beck of Shaker Heights. Thank you for the opportunity to bring new information to you today. I am a member of the national steering committee of the United Church of Christ Palestine-Israel Network, and I am an active supporter of Jewish Voice for Peace. Both groups work for equality, freedom, and dignity of all human beings. We believe that Palestinians and Israelis are human beings and both deserve to be treated as human beings.

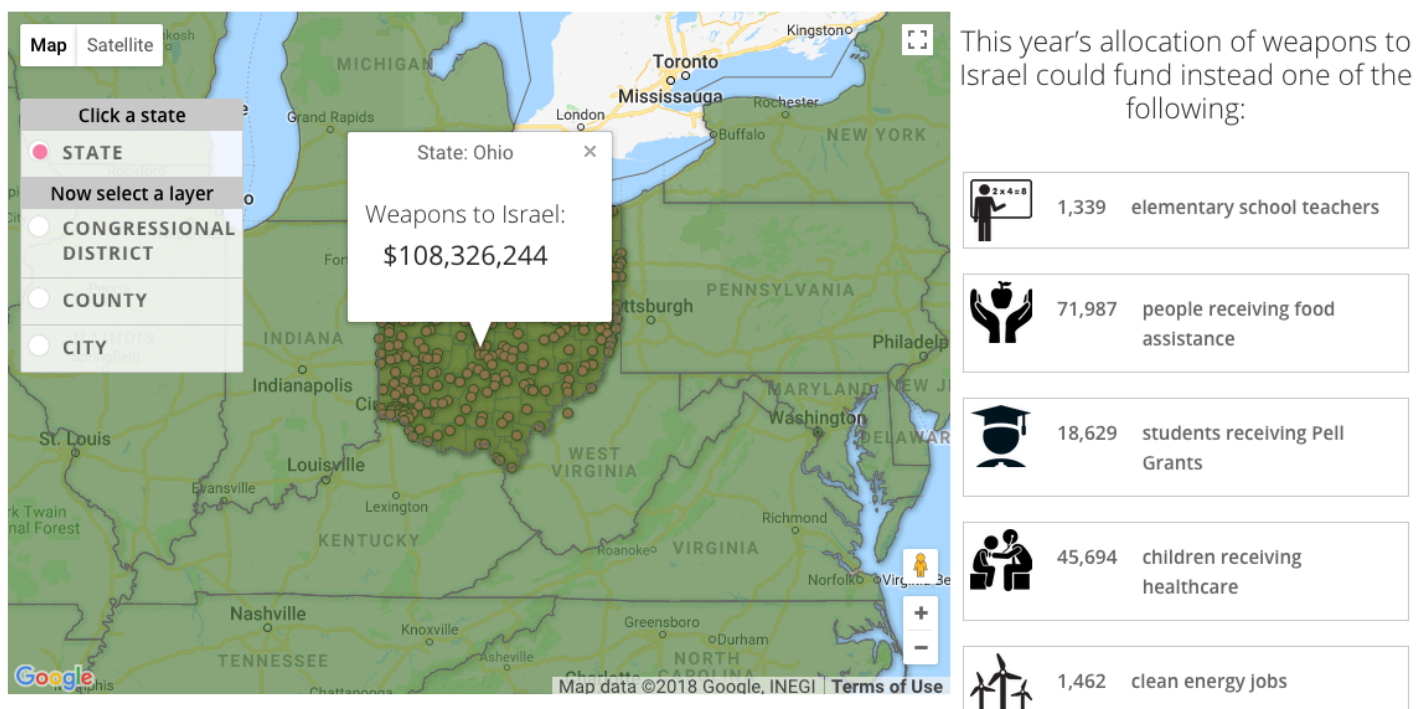
News 1:

The U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights has created an online interactive map which tells you how much of the \$3.8 billion US tax dollars for the Israeli military is coming from your state, city, county, Congressional district:

<https://uscpr.org/campaign/government-affairs/resources/military-aid-to-israel/>

US taxpayers will give Israel a total of **\$38 billion** of weapons over ten years (\$3.8 billion each year from 2019 to 2028), according to a 2016 **agreement** between the two countries. Israel uses these weapons, in violation of US laws, to commit human rights abuses against Palestinians living under its brutal, more than half-century-long military occupation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. These include injuring and killing civilians, detaining and abusing children, demolishing homes, uprooting agriculture, and denying freedom of movement and expression.

How much of this annual \$3.8 billion allocation do people in your state, Congressional district, county, and city provide and what could be funded instead with this money to benefit your community? Find out below on our interactive map. Click on a state to get started.



I encourage you to peruse it with your own area and interests! How many elementary school teachers would it fund? People receiving food assistance? Students receiving Pell grants? Children receiving health care? Clean energy jobs?

News 2:

Just days ago, the national convening of the Presbyterians, representing more than 1.5 million persons, overwhelmingly passed 10 provisions regarding the Palestinian situation, as reported by the coalition U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights:

1. Condemn Israel's attacks on participants in the Great March for Return and calls for an end to Israel's illegal siege of the Gaza strip.
2. **Oppose Israel's illegal annexation of Jerusalem, and its discriminatory practices targeting Palestinians' access to employment, representation, infrastructure, services, and education;**
3. **Affirm the right to boycott and condemns anti-BDS legislation at state and federal levels; opposes the Israel Anti-Boycott Act.**
4. Stand in solidarity with Palestinians and their call to recognize Israel as an apartheid state and to intensify BDS campaigns.
5. Challenge the U.S. President and State Department regarding Israel's discrimination against Palestinians and other citizens of Israel; calls for U.S. diplomatic action toward equality.
6. Challenge RE/MAX as a boycott target for profiting from sales in Israeli illegal settlements.
7. Ensure that interfaith relationships in the U.S. are focused toward justice — not used as a cover for Israel's violence against Palestinians.
8. Reject normalization efforts that ignore the power imbalance between Palestinians and Israelis.

Two votes were negative votes:

1. Refuse to scapegoat Palestinians for the killing of their children by Israel and refuse false symmetry between the violence inflicted on Palestinian and Israeli children.
2. Refuse to end the classification of Israel as a "colonial project".

The resolutions were supported by testimonies from local and visiting Palestinians, Black Lives Matter leaders, Presbyterians, and others. Most of the resolutions passed by 80 or 90 percent or unanimously in committee and through the General Assembly.

News 3:

On Monday, June 25, the American Friends (Quaker) Service Committee and the Defense of Children International sponsored a Congressional briefing re: Palestinian children's rights following the relocation of the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem. These human rights groups are known for their honesty and caring service in Palestine-Israel. In my March 21, 2018 testimony, I briefly presented some of the aspects of the military nighttime raids on families and detention and maltreatment of their children in Israeli detention centers and prisons where the families must have permission to travel. Monday's program is more comprehensive and can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanFriendsServiceCommittee/videos/10155638801137444/>

News 4:

On Sunday evening, June 24, Israeli settlers burned 300 olive trees and other agricultural lands belonging to Palestinians of two villages. Earlier this year, the Shin Bet, Israel's internal intelligence agency, reported a spike in Israeli hate crimes against Palestinians in 2018.

News 5:

The magazine "The Intercept" reports that "[The FBI Is Using Unvetted, Right-Wing Blacklists to Question Activists About Their Support for Palestine.](#)"

The story relates to HCR10 and university students — government interference in legitimate free speech and participation. HCR10 encourages such interference and authoritarianism. We Americans and our students need access to all information for discussion and debate and personal advocacy.

Learning about and promoting human rights for Palestinians is NOT anti-semitism. Sharing information about human rights abuses by Israelis is NOT anti-semitism. The Presbyterians are not anti-semitic, nor are any of the other faith groups who are supporting BDS and educating people about the grave situation in Palestine-Israel.

If you vote in favor of HCR10, you must understand that you are complicit in the suppression of the human rights both of Palestinians and American citizens.

Let it die on the table.