

Chair Edwards, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about Campus Antisemitism and support for HB606, the Campus Accountability and Modernization to Protect University Students Act, or the CAMPUS Act.

My name is Luke Moon. I am the executive director of the Philos Project. We're an organization that is committed to promoting positive Christian engagement in the Near East. The Philos Project was started nearly a decade ago to raise awareness about Christian persecution (ISIS was destroying Christian communities all over Iraq and Syria) and encourage Christian support for Israel and the Jewish people. We wanted to help Americans Christian see how their faith was connected to a land thousands of miles away. Even though much of our work was in the Near East, we did not forsake our homeland. Antisemitism, often veiled as anti-Zionism, was manifesting itself in two distinct institutions. Mainline Protestant Christian denominations and college campuses. Initially it was in the form of Boycott, Divest, and Sanction (BDS) on companies doing business in Israel. Companies like Motorola, Caterpillar, and HP. We fought these effort, often successfully.

For the sake of time, I'll jump to Oct 7. The Philos Project, woke up to the news of the invasion of Israel. We quickly mobilized our network and helped organize the first pro-Israel rallies in NY and Washington DC. We didn't stop for the next 50 days. The pro-Hamas forces were also ready. They mobilized rallies too. Every day. I've stood in the face of countless protesters at this point. Often as the only Christian on the side of the Jews and Israel. I've dodged rocks and water bottles. I wave an American flag and an Israeli flag. Because this is nothing less than civilization verses barbarism.

In the early days, the protests were mostly in support of a ceasefire. Lately, they are openly calling for the destruction of Israel specifically and the West generally. There is now open support on college campuses for Hamas, Hezbollah, and other US designated terrorist organizations. Towards the end

of the school year, things became much worse. Checkpoints set up to prevent Jewish students from getting to their classrooms. This week a report out of Columbia mentioned a Professor singling out a student with a Jewish sounding name and having them explain their position on Gaza. Another professor told students not to listen to the mainstream news because it's owned by the Jews.

One of the most important factors in determining the degree to which these protests turned into campus takeovers has been the response by the campus administrations. As a free speech absolutist, I have no problem with offensive speech. I do have a problem with pro-terrorist checkpoints being set up on campuses as if that is reasonable speech. As a matter of fact, I have issues with anyone who is advocating on behalf of terrorist organizations. That should not be too much to ask, but in some instances it is not being dealt with appropriately.

That is why this legislation is important. It puts pressure on administrations to protect the students and faculty under their care. We should not allow a few hundred students to ruin the reputation of any public institution. A Jewish or Christian student should not be ashamed of their school because of a handful of pro-terrorist activists being cuddled by an administration.

This fall will be the next big test of our academic institutions. Legislation like this will help ensure the focus is on academic excellence and not childish activism.