



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

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June 19, 2024

The Honorable Justin Pizzulli
Honorable Members, Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St # 12
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Campus Accountability and Modernization to Protect University Students (“CAMPUS”)
Act (HB606)

Dear State Rep. Pizzulli and the other Honorable Members of the Ohio House of Representatives:

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), the oldest and one of the largest pro-Israel organizations in the United States, strongly endorses the CAMPUS Act (HB606) and encourages the Ohio House of Representatives to pass this legislation as a first step towards fighting the blatant antisemitism on too many of our college campuses today.

We are excited about the creation of the campus student safety grant program to enhance security and the creation of the campus community grant program to support intergroup and interfaith outreach. These are essential elements of the steps that must be taken to ensure that Jewish students (and other students who are targeted on the basis of their race, religion or ethnicity) are provided with the safe and welcoming learning environment that every student deserves.

As you know, the Governor's 2002 Executive Order, “Defining and Combating Antisemitism” (see <https://governor.ohio.gov/media/executive-orders/executive-order-2022-06d>), promoted the use of the IHRA working definition of antisemitism but did not mandate its use for Ohio universities. We believe the legislation could be even more effective if it included a provision that mandated the use of the IHRA definition – including the definition’s contemporary examples of antisemitism – in implementing the legislation. Requiring that the IHRA definition and its contemporary examples be included in the bias/harassment/intimidation policy and the training that this legislation would compel would make the policy and training more meaningful. Administrators, faculty, staff and students cannot identify and respond effectively to antisemitism if they do not understand how it is expressed today, particularly related to Israel.

The ZOA understands that more legislation may be needed to achieve campus environments that are free of Jew-hatred. We appreciate the CAMPUS Act for starting Ohio down the road to making the state’s campuses hate-free.

Respectfully,

Morton A. Klein
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