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Chairman Nathan Manning
The Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
Ground Floor, 039
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Manning,

I write to you today to express strong support for Senate Bill 297, a bill that codifies Gov. DeWine's executive order defining antisemitism.

It is astonishing that such legislation is necessary in America today but, sadly, such a definition is needed. We have seen too much violence and incidence of hate targeted at our Jewish brethren in the world, in this country and, unfortunately, in our state.

The targeting of Jews has consistently been reported as the most likely of all religious groups to be victimized, and the rates of these despicable acts are on the rise.

Less than four miles from the Statehouse, two Ohio State University students were attacked in November 2023. At the same time, hate mongers vandalized the campus Hillel.

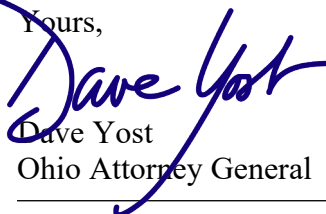
We have seen domestic terrorism plots against Jewish communities in Youngstown and Toledo in the past six years that were thwarted by law enforcement. But for their efforts, the consequences could have been deadly. It's past time to act.

Senate Bill 297 codifies the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. This definition, created in 2016, has become the authoritative definition for use by governments and international organizations across the globe. That definition reads in full:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

Our Jewish neighbors should not live in fear because of their faith. No Ohioan should. This bill should move forward swiftly.

Yours,



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