

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and Members of the Committee, I, Arthur Kaplan, stand here before you as a proud American, a proud immigrant, a proud Jew, and a proud Zionist.

In the past year, antisemitism has evolved into a far more intricate and long-running discrimination, bias, and hate against Jews individually and collectively. It has manifested itself via religious bigotry, racial discrimination, cultural stereotyping, and political targeting.

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) states a widely accepted definition – "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."

Antisemitism has endured historical persistence, evolving over centuries and adapting to different social, political, and cultural contexts. Antisemitism often involves conspiracy theories about Jewish power, influence, and control over global affairs, media, and financial systems. It has also manifested as denying the Jewish people's right to self-determination, including by claiming that the State of Israel is a racist endeavor. Lately and shockingly, a contemporary form of antisemitism now includes denying the fact, scope, and intentionality of the Holocaust.

Modern examples of antisemitism have now grown to online hate, campus incidents, political rhetoric, and ultimately have led to numerous violent attacks.

Being heavily involved with the FIDF in the US and Israel365 Action as part of the World Zionist Congress, I understand the importance of adopting a clear definition. This is crucial to –

1. Educate the public about the character and dangers of antisemitism.
2. Create a framework for law enforcement and policymakers to detect/report antisemitic incidents.
3. Facilitate interfaith communication and combating all forms of hatred and discrimination.

I thank you for your time and have faith in you reaching a just and moral decision on this proposed bill.