

Written Testimony of Opposition to SB297

To keep it brief, I find this bill revolting. To create such a broad definition of anti-semitism is an insult to the community the bill claims to be protecting from hate speech. All it will be used for is to silence those who have already been silenced enough. Conflating anti-semitism with anti-Zionism is a very deliberate move and it has not and will not go unnoticed. It is despicable that you would weaponize the very real discrimination faced by Jewish people to silence those who oppose a genocide. Anti-semitism is most definitely something which must be combated but that does not appear to be an actual concern here. The only ones being protected by this are those who wish to uphold apartheid and support colonization. It will harm far more people than it helps. The conflation of these two things has already been used to downplay the suffering and cruelty brought about by the Zionist cause and you are trying to cement it into law. I strongly opposed this bill and if anything, I urge you to rewrite it. If the goal is truly to help people then I recommend taking out all the unhelpful parts and writing it better.