

Dear Chairman Manning and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

**I am writing as a rabbi and a resident of Shaker Heights to oppose SB 297.**

I am grateful that the Ohio Senate is taking antisemitism seriously and responding to recent events such as neo-Nazis marching with swastikas in Columbus. Nonetheless, I believe that codifying the IHRA definition of antisemitism into law would be a mistake.

**The IHRA definition is widely held to be a confusing and inaccurate definition of antisemitism that harmfully and inaccurately conflates criticism of the State of Israel with antisemitism and can therefore be used to stifle free speech.** Under SB 297, legitimate concerns about Israel's responsibility for possible human rights violations or war crimes would be automatically labeled as antisemitic. But it is not antisemitic to demand accountability from a country, and all states should be held to the same standards of international law. I urge you not to pass this harmful bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Rabbi Steve Segar  
Shaker Heights, OH