

Subject: Opposing miscategorization of criticism of Israel as antisemitic

The pair of bills (SB 297 / HB 618) introduced in the Ohio Statehouse encoding [the IHRA definition of antisemitism](#)—a definition that miscategorizes criticism of Israel as antisemitic threatens to undermine free speech and stifle legitimate criticism of government policies by conflating antisemitism with constitutionally protected speech about Israeli policies.

The bill's extremely vague definitions could lead to unjust censorship of students, activists, and organizations advocating for Palestinian rights. Protecting free speech means ensuring everyone has the right to voice their opinions without fear of retaliation or suppression.

Even though I am not able to be there in person, I want my concerns to be heard and considered.

Regards,

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