

TESTIMONY in OPPOSITION TO S.B. No. 297
in the
Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee
December 11, 2024

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members:

I am Eric Resnick. I am from Canton, Ohio. I am Jewish. I lost relatives in the Holocaust. My family suffered antisemitism in this country. I have had FBI protection because of antisemitism at the hand of a Zionist so-called Jew who threatened me, the board of education on which I was serving, and the council of governments which I serve as a director. I think I know something about *bona fide* hatred of Jews, and I also know something about *pretend* antisemitism. I am also a proud American who, like you, has sworn an oath to the Constitution, which includes the First Amendment – inarguably our most important liberty.

I come here today in emphatic opposition to S.B. No. 297.

The people who want you pass this legislation, and have practiced realpolitik and feted you accordingly, are Zionists, not Jews, and they are trying to make you accomplices in their perversion. I am deeply ashamed of them.

Judaism tells us to do unto others what you want them to do to you, and to love our neighbors.

Zionism is a violent settler colonial project – a political movement just over 100 years old, that is now committing Genocide, and the people who want this bill unequivocally support that Genocide. (You can see that highlighted in the attachment.) They want the State of Ohio, through you, to support Genocide too.

Zionism's greatest accomplishment is convincing much of the western world that Palestinians are of a lesser god, that they don't deserve empathy, let alone rights. If you think that echoes how the world looked the other way when Jews were exterminated in Europe, you'd be right. Zionists were astute students.

Anti-Zionist Jews are the fastest growing group of American Jews, especially among those just learning about the world. Young adult Jews are rejecting Zionism for all the right reasons, and in many cases, leading the protests against the Zionist Genocide showing up live on or screens and news feeds every day.

This bill is about denying *their* First Amendment rights, and mine, and the First Amendment rights of my Palestinian brothers and sisters who just want their families to enjoy the right to life.

What pains me is that you all know this. You're not stupid. You are entertaining this at all because you are cynical, and you are worried about your political future. Award winning, Jewish, independent journalist Max Blumenthal points out that the most existential threat to the First Amendment is Zionism, and if you move this bill, you will be proving him right.

Antisemitism is real. It was real in this country when my grandparents found red lines and covenant deeds prohibiting Jews from owning homes in certain areas in Massillon. It was real when Lake Cable

had a sign on the gate that said “No Jews or Dogs Allowed.” It was real when my dad was denied access to educational and professional opportunities because he was Jewish.

But no one can seriously claim that kind of Jew hatred is going on in the United States anymore. After all, look how you are responding to real or perceived Jewish power as you consider this bill.

When the Anti-Defamation League starts accusing Hollywood of being antisemitic because they think Jews are under-represented there, you would be correct to roll your eyes. Hollywood, after all.

When Zionism, Inc. recruits Jewish college students to tell members of legislative bodies that they feel threatened because someone in a room they were in used the word “intifada” – a word they probably don’t know the meaning – the reasonable response is, “how pathetic!”

As others have testified, and I have attached, the author of the IHRA definition of antisemitism, Kenneth Stern, says it was never intended for this purpose, and that it is being weaponized. In 2019 he wrote of this use of the definition, “Zionists of America [who testified to this committee] and other groups will hunt political speech with which they disagree, and threaten to bring legal cases.”

I don’t see where Zionists are hiding that as their intent.

This isn’t about *bona fide* hatred of Jews at all. It’s lawfare. It’s about perverting state law to subvert the First Amendment in service of silencing opposition to Zionism and the necessary Genocide it requires. It’s hard to imagine anything more un-American than that, or for that matter any more anti-Jewish than that.

I am happy to take your questions.