

Loraine McCosker
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Dear OHR Development Committee, Chair Hoops, other committee members,

This email is from Loraine McCosker, Athens Ohio. Please accept my opponent testimony.

As a citizen of Ohio, retired university instructor, retired public health nurse, parent and grandparent, I am strongly opposed to HB 291. At a time when our world appears to be more violent each day, the Ohio Legislature is considering integrating their trade policies with electronic warfare projects and expanding the role of this industry in the Ohio economy. This is not acceptable and should not be embraced.

I oppose:

A broad authorization to engage in academic and technological partnerships tied to foreign governments, allowing the influence of said governments on the research and policies of universities as well as Ohio policy. This would further compromise academic institutions and their work.

There are no checks and balances in this bill to protect Ohioan's data, taxpayer dollars, or democratic processes.

Ohio may be complicit in expanding surveillance technologies against specific populations domestically and internationally.

Strangely, HB 291 creates an international commission with no defined budget cap or performance goals.

This bill established joint cybersecurity and electronic warfare projects with Israel, now a country in war with two countries, declared by the International Criminal Court as committing genocide.

It would create a commission that provides a seat for someone who represents Israeli-American interests.

As a taxpayer and Ohio resident, I find this most distasteful--- HB 291 would allow military contractors influence our economy through cyberwarfare research and private funding without oversight.

This bill sets a dangerous precedent of giving foreign governments direct access to shape domestic economic policy.

Please vote in opposition to HB 291.

Respectfully submitted,

Loraine McCosker

Athens Ohio