

I am opposed to HB291, which will allow for more foreign cyber defense influence in Ohio. This will result in institutionalizing Israeli tech collaboration, including in offensive cyberwarfare, without any legislative checks, public reporting, or security protections. I am firmly opposed to this collaboration and this bill in the state of Ohio. Ohio should not have any direct influence in security or cyberware with the state of Israel, a state in which has been committing genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank, as well as exerting its surveillance, technology, and intelligence globally which has worked to repress and contain poor people of color. Israel has killed over 60,000 Palestinians directly with their precise technologies, and has been averaging 50-70 Palestinian deaths a day with no one batting an eye. Much of this will increase if we continue to give more funds for Israel to continue developing these advanced technologies of warfare, including this bill. With the situation heightening in the Middle East, including the ongoing genocide as well as Israel's direct attacks against countries such as Lebanon, Syria, and Iran, we should be doing what we can to stop this influence and stop any form of aid to Israel, including helping them to increase their influence of cyber defense in Ohio. The state of Ohio needs to be more principled in making sure that we do not collaborate with states that commit mass murders against other people, as well as utilizing their funds to help populations here, including issues more pertinent, such as homelessness, access to health care, education, and improving conditions for Ohioans. Having more of an influence in Ohio will increase surveillance against Ohio residents and legitimize Israel's war crimes.