

To the House Economic & Workforce Development Committee

Dear Chair Rep. Hoops, Vice Chair Rep. Lorenz and Ranking Member Rep. Abdullahi

My name is Dr. Pranav Jani. I am a professor at Ohio State but am writing in my individual capacity as a citizen of Ohio. I strongly urge you to oppose House Bill 291.

Let me keep it simple and direct.

Israel is engaged in war crimes in Gaza, by any measure. The only reason one would not see this is bias and animus towards Palestinians.

Ohio should not be rewarding Israel with a seat on the proposed Ohio International Trade Commission or engage in joint cybersecurity and electronic warfare. These will be used for more war crimes, and make Ohio taxpayers directly complicit in them,

But don't take my word for it. Listen to Ireland, another proposed partner of the Commission,

Ireland has criticized Israeli war crimes consistently, such that Israel has pulled its ambassador from the country. Ireland has joined South Africa in its case charging Israel with genocide, filed in the International Court.

Do these countries even know they are being partnered together? Do the legislators even know about the historic Irish opposition to Israel and support for Palestine, given Ireland's own proud anticolonial history?

HB 291 is ill-conceived. Besides aiding and abetting war crimes, it makes Ohio look foolish, at a very basic level.

Ohio's taxpayer dollars should go to our communities, instead. Vote NO on HB 291.

Sincerely,
Dr. Pranav Jani