

Oct. 26, 2025

Dear Chairman Hoops and members of the OH House Development Committee:

I write to strongly oppose HB 188, which does not serve Ohioans or comply with international law.

As a Jewish citizen and longtime resident of Ohio, I am appalled by the misplaced priorities that will invest \$10 million in a political partnership with a foreign nation that has been conducting genocide and ethnic cleansing for over two years. This money could and should instead be supporting the millions of people, including children, pregnant, and breast-feeding mothers, who are being cut off of federal SNAP, health, and housing programs due to the deep and criminal corruption in our federal government.

This is a purely political project to bolster a rogue nation that has been committing unchecked war crimes against the Palestinian people and their descendants who were evicted from their homes and land by settler-colonialist refugees fleeing the Holocaust who had been turned away by the U.S. and other countries. Ohio's complicity in Israel's ongoing genocide by funneling taxpayer dollars to Israel makes the Ohio government guilty of the crime of genocide, since complicity in genocide is a crime in its own right. And this genocide continues in spite of a so-called peace deal. Thousands currently face death due to continuing bombardments, obstruction of food and aid deliveries by Israel, and lack of evacuations for victims of Israeli bombings and starvation.

I also have serious concerns about this bill's lack of transparency, oversight, and return on investment for Ohio taxpayers. The legislation includes no clear benchmarks, performance reporting requirements, or community input mechanisms. The bill creates a board stacked with political appointees tied to pro-Israel organizations, explicitly excluding Palestinian, Arab-American, Muslim, and neutral voices. It contains no independent oversight, no competitive process, and no clear safeguards to ensure accountability or public benefit. The bill's reliance on JobsOhio, a private nonprofit criticized for lack of transparency, further reduces public accountability. Jobs Ohio was created by the legislature to protect against taxation and transparency. Donations are tax exempt and can hide investment activity with Israel, facilitating money laundering.

I urge the Committee to vote down this dangerous, unethical, and illegal legislation.

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Athens