

**Testimony on H.B. 188 by Solomon Freilich, Ohio Jew, representing himself**

**Position: opposed to the bill**

**Date of hearing: 10/29/2025**

**Date of writing: 10/27/2025**

The Ohio Israel Trade and Innovation Partnership is an unconstitutional program that wastes Ohioans' tax dollars to benefit Israel. The U.S. Constitution says, "No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation" and lists the regulation of "Commerce with foreign Nations" as a power of Congress. Ohioans are struggling and will struggle even more when SNAP benefits stop next month. Ohio farmers and grocers will feel the impacts of shoppers buying less produce and meat. Ohio could be spending the funds allocated for this partnership on programs that benefit Ohioans and Ohio businesses, not Israelis and Israeli businesses. The law you are considering purports to benefit Ohio and Israel mutually, but investing in Israel is financially risky because Israel has been at war for two years. There are no guaranteed returns for Ohio taxpayers. As an Ohio Jew and grandson of a survivor of Hitler's Germany, I urge the committee to reject this unconstitutional law, H.B. 188.