

My name is Stephanie Riccobene, a tax-paying resident of Garfield Heights, Ohio, and I vehemently oppose HB 188. This bill would send millions of Ohio taxpayer dollars to the State of Israel at a time when Ohioans are facing the loss of their SNAP food assistance, cuts to libraries, schools and other programs that address human needs, as well as rising healthcare costs. As your constituent, I am mortified that our lawmakers would make such a proposal in this dire moment.

Furthermore, not only does this bill give Israel a blank check with no independent oversight or accountability, but I find it morally repugnant that my lawmakers would seek to make itself complicit in Israel's crimes against humanity in this way. Indeed, it is unequivocally clear that Israel is using humanitarian aid as a weapon against innocent, starving, suffering, dying Palestinian civilians, for example, as it openly announces its decision to withhold humanitarian aid from these civilians, in clear violation of the Geneva Conventions and international law.

Ohio's resources should stay in Ohio to address the human needs of our communities HERE. Ohio should not be aiding and abetting Israel's crimes against humanity in Gaza; it is immoral and unethical. Vote NO on HB 188.

With all due respect,
Stephanie M. Riccobene
Garfield Heights, Ohio