

Opposition to HB 188

Written Testimony Only

Submitted by Noura Dabdoub

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I am a life-long Ohio resident, and I currently reside in Hilliard, OH. I am also Palestinian. I strongly oppose HB 188.

I appeal to this committee as both an Ohio resident and as a Palestinian, and ask that the committee vote against HB 188, a bill regarding the “Ohio Israel Trade and Innovation Partnership.”

This bill would create ties between Ohio, my state, and Israel, a foreign country that has committed genocide against my family in Palestine. This bill also has the potential to funnel millions of Ohioan’s dollars into Israel, a foreign state that has committed genocide.

As an Ohioan, I **want my state to keep investments and trade partnerships local**, where those connections can **best serve Ohioans** instead of funneling support to a foreign government with a struggling economy.

As an Ohioan, I **want my state to keep our taxpayer dollars local**, where they can best serve Ohioans.

As an Ohioan and as a Palestinian, I think it is **unconscionable for my state and my elected officials to invest in, partner or trade with a foreign country that has committed genocide and other violations of international law**. The United States should be using its position as an ally to take a stand against Israel for its egregious actions, not seeking to bolster Israel’s failing economy.

I urge my elected officials to **prioritize Ohio** and focus their legislative efforts on helping our local communities. **This legislation is a risky, unethical effort with serious deficits**. It lacks transparency, independent oversight, and mechanism for community input. It also excludes Palestinian voices, a clearly biased exclusion that is extremely concerning.

I believe that this bill does not benefit Ohio. I want my elected officials to work to benefit our state, not a foreign country that has committed genocide against my family. I want my elected officials to work to build our local economy by supporting local initiatives and local communities with ethical, responsible, transparent legislation. **I strongly urge you to vote no on HB 188.**