

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 188
House Committee on Development
10/28/25

Stuart Lukz

Chair Hoops, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Brownlee, and Members of the Development Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Stuart Joseph Lukz. The proposals of House Bill 188 deeply concern me. I urge members of this committee to vote NO on this bill.

This bill would formalize a state partnership with Israel at a time when Ohio communities are enduring deep cuts to food assistance, schools, healthcare, and infrastructure. This pains me as both a tutor and scheduler of mental healthcare; I see the daily challenges folks meet under cuts to medical transportation, telehealth coverage, and Medicaid with new state and federal budgets.

As a Ukrainian and Lebanese American, I'm alarmed that our legislature would create a commission that hard-codes pro-Israel lobbyists while excluding Palestinian and Arab-American voices. It lacks oversight, transparency, and any guarantee of benefit to Ohioans.

Israel stands accused by international bodies of war crimes, including the bombing of hospitals, schools, churches, and mosques. Rewarding that conduct with a state partnership places Ohio on the wrong side of history.

Ohio's duty is to invest in our own communities, not to legitimize foreign governments engaged in systemic human-rights abuses. Please vote NO on HB 188 and support HB 291 instead.

Sincerely,

Stuart Lukz
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