

Cheryl Dearman Mills
Wells
LD 1351

Honorable Senators and Representatives of the judicial committee,
I am writing in opposition to LD1351, The definition of anti-Semitism, as referenced in this bill, would deny Maine residents the right to criticize any action of the Israeli government or any supporter of that government. Criticism of a government or current administration, is not equal to hatred of the people it supposedly represents. A true democracy must allow criticism of the actions of its own country and people as well as that of others if such a democracy is truly to be what it espouses to be. Many Israelis and American Jewish organizations are active in criticizing the actions of the Israeli government and working tirelessly in support of the rights of Palestinians.

This bill is in effect a further attempt by some holding government positions to silence the voices of opposition Removing the rights of a people to voice criticism of any government is a step toward the loss of free speech.

Therefore, I urge you to reject LD1351.

Thank you,
Cheryl Dearman Mills