

Ryan Peters
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LD 1351

My name is Ryan Peters, I am a Maine resident currently residing in Sanford. I would like to voice my strong opposition to LD 1351. In a dangerous time for free speech, weaponizing the vague term “antisemitism” is attack on free speech, free thought and American ideals. The timing of this bill is especially dangerous, given that “antisemitism” is often conflated with criticism of Zionism and Israel, while Israel is carrying out the worst genocide we’ve seen in many of our lifetimes. This bill, to me, feels like if it were 1939 and you were passing a bill that made it illegal to criticize Germans or Nazis. Criticism and scrutiny of Israel and the United States is crucial in this time where both these countries are the primary aggressors in world terror. As people are getting rounded up by the Trump Administration for speaking out against genocide and violence against children, we need less restrictions on free speech, not dangerous dystopian bills like LD 1351 that put all Americans in danger.