

Myke Johnson
Portland
LD 1351

I am testifying against LD1351. The IHRA definition of antisemitism conflates criticism of Israel and Zionism with antisemitism, which would greatly infringe on free speech and our collective ability to help hold governments, like Israel, accountable.

This bill comes at a time when people in Gaza face genocide at the hands of the government of Israel, supported by weapons from the United States. When people say "never again" in response to the Holocaust, that means never again for anyone. How ironic to use a definition of "anti-semitism" that prohibits criticism of a government carrying out a genocide.

This is a weaponization of "antisemitism" which intensifies discrimination and exclusion of vulnerable communities in the U.S. including Jews.

We affirm the peaceful right to protest and this attack on free speech should not come to Maine.