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I strongly oppose using the deeply flawed IHRA definition of antisemitism in this bill. The definition is over-broad, and has been used to characterize opposition to the State of Israel as dangerous bigotry. This is then weaponized against protest, boycott, and criticism of ongoing siege, land theft, apartheid, and genocide against Palestinians.

Furthermore, even if this legislation were to amend the definition at play, I would still oppose it. To quote James McMaster, in his critique of "a solution that isn't one: Hate-Crimes Legislation..."

"Many believe that treating acts of violence as hate crimes can deter people from enacting bias-based harm, but there is no conclusive evidence that it does. Hate-crime laws merely attach additional penalties to already criminalized acts — assault, harassment, vandalism, murder. By definition, they are reactionary in that they are dispensed only after harm has already been done."

The legislation now in question can have no protective benefit for Jewish people against bigotry and violence. It CAN and certainly WILL be used to repress free-speech criticism of Israel and Zionism. And as we see all over the country, Jewish anti-zionists are very often targeted by the exact same repressive laws, police violence, and expulsions that are ostensibly claimed to be "protecting" them from antisemitism.