

Samar Post Jamali
Portland
LD 1351

Hello, I am writing in an effort to protect freedom of speech. I humbly request that LD 1351 not be passed.

The IHRA definition of antisemitism conflates criticism of Israel with anti-semitism. This would greatly infringe on free speech. It blurs the distinction between Jewish people and the state of Israel.

In a letter from April 2023, 60 humanitarian and civil rights organizations including Israeli human rights group B'Tselem, Human Rights Watch (HRW), Amnesty International, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR), appealed to the UN to not use the IHRA definition in its action plan against antisemitism and subsequent activities.

Instead of combating genuine antisemitism, it has the effect of suppressing, non-violent protest, activism and speech that's critical of Israel.

I ask that the bill be changed to adopt the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism instead. The Jerusalem Declaration distinguishes between antisemitism and criticism of the state of Israel. This would serve many more people.

Respectfully,
Samar Post Jamali
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