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I write today as a Jewish person and a Maine resident. I am proudly Jewish and proudly anti-Zionist. The violent and destructive actions of the Israeli state do not represent me or my religious or cultural values; in fact, they run directly counter to all I believe and have been taught about civil liberties, moral and ethical action, and peace and justice. I am outraged that definitions of antisemitism have been manipulated to include the critique of a state and government. Judaism is an ancient religion, and cannot be conflated with a state established in 1948.

I would like to emphasize the following:

- The IHRA definition of antisemitism conflates criticism of Israel and Zionism with anti-semitism, which would greatly infringe on free speech and our collective ability to help hold governments, like Israel, accountable.
- The weaponization of antisemitism intensifies discrimination and exclusion of vulnerable communities in the U.S.—including Jews.
- The Trump administration and those who support supremacist ideologies are actively trying to suppress free speech and the peaceful right to protest and this attack on free speech should not come to Maine.

Thank you for listening. Please do the right thing today.