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LD 1351

Good morning, Maine state legislators. My name is Sarah Snyder and I am a proud Jewish resident of South Portland, Maine. As a Jew who takes anti-semitism very seriously and is concerned about the safety of Jews across the US and internationally, I ask you to OPPOSE this bill. This definition of antisemitism does not protect Jews. It uses Jews as a scapegoat, as a means to repress free speech and advocacy for international human rights. As Jews, we know that safety only comes through solidarity and standing up for the rights and freedom of all who are oppressed. This bill's definition of antisemitism would make such an act unlawful, and conflates Zionism with Judaism. The content of this bill does not align with the values I believe Maine lawmakers hold- those of free speech, standing up for your neighbors, and not being bullied into decisions out of fear.

The same leaders of this country who support this definition are making Nazi references and salutes on public stages. If you are confused by this that is a correct response, and should give you immense pause and understanding that this definition makes no one safer, only less safe.

I believe you all have the courage to stand on the right side of history today and vote for real Jewish safety by OPPOSING this bill. Thank you.