Rebecca Wartell Gorham LD 1351

Dear honorable members of the Judiciary committee,

I believe while the spirit of this bill is a good one, using the IHRA definition as the chosen definition of antisemitism is ultimately dangerous for Jewish people such as myself who don't hold unwavering support for a country on the other side of the globe (Israel) as central or even relevant to our Judaism. Antisemitism existed long before the state of Israel, and there are millions more Christian Zionists than there are Jews in the world, therefore Zionism should not have any relationship one way or another to the definition of antisemitism. I urge to committee to explore other definitions of antisemitism to use for this bill that do not codify antizionist speech alone as antisemitism or you risk setting up instances where actual Jewish people could be accused of anti Jewish hate targeted at non-Jewish people and what a mess that would be! Thank you very much for your consideration.