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LD 1351

If there is still time before this bill goes to a vote of the full legislature, I write today to voice my opposition to LD 1351,

"An Act to Require Antisemitism to be Considered Motivation When Determining a Violation of a Criminal or Civil Violation." I fear this bill is an attempt to limit free speech, and give special status to the State and government of Israel. Certainly slanderous and threatening speech against Jews, or any other ethnic or religious group, should be condemned. But I sense that in the current culture and media, speech has been termed "antisemitic," when in truth what the speech is criticizing are the policies of the government of Israel, and the regime of Benjamin Netanyahu. Please do not pass this bill; it has more potential to limit legitimate free speech than to strengthen protections for Jews.

Thank you.