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LD 1351

I am writing to urge our lawmakers to oppose LD 1351 this morning.

The IHRA definition of antisemitism contained in this bill equates criticism of the state of Israel and Zionism with antisemitism. The definition was never intended to be a legal framework for institutions. Even the main drafter of the IHRA definition, Ken Stern, has expressed concern that institutions could turn this into a "blunt instrument to label anyone an antisemite".

This bill would have a chilling effect on our rights to free speech and peaceful protest, and it would greatly impede our responsibility to hold the Israeli government accountable for their gross human rights violations.

I believe it is criticism of the Israeli government and its policies should not be conflated with antisemitism. This bill should be opposed so that we can continue to question the Israeli government without fear of being called antisemitic, which is just so far from the truth.