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LD 1351

I'm writing to submit my testimony that LD 1351 should be opposed, on the basis that the bill defines antisemitism in such a way that it conflates antisemitism with Zionism. In fact, Zionism is a state ideology, not an inherent tenet of Judaism. This definition is used to limit free speech that criticizes Zionism and Israel as a state. Even the man who wrote the definition, Kenneth Stern, now criticizes it for the way it's used to persecute people from their free speech. Here in the US, this weaponization of antisemitism adds to the discrimination of minority groups, even negatively affecting Jews themselves. Antisemitism is wrong, but criticizing Zionism is not antisemitic, and the two should not be conflated lest this false equivalence limit free speech and lead to further injury of the very people it's intended to protect.