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To members of the Judiciary Committee of the Maine Legislature:

I am very concerned about a misunderstanding about the nature of anti-semitism. It is an expression of hate against individuals who identify as Jewish (and it can also apply to other groups considered Semitic, such as Palestinians). It is NOT dislike or hate of governments, such as the government of Israel. Israel is a political unit; criticism of a political unit is perfectly legitimate.

I support a statement called the Jerusalem Declaration on Anti-Semitism, which makes this distinction perfectly clear.

I live in Bangor. I identify as Jewish. I lost about 75 members of my family on my father's side. I have a close relative who lives in Israel with their family, including a child who is now in the Israeli military. I am concerned about their safety and believe that as long as the Israeli military and government continues to kill Palestinians, my family members living in Israel will not be safe.

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