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LD 1351

I am opposing LD 1351. This bill uses language that equates criticism of Israel's actions as a State with actual antisemitism. This false equivalence is worse than lazy. It weaponizes the word antisemitism against the millions of Jews who do not support the ethnic cleansing and terrorism that Netanyahu is waging on the population of Gaza. It is an overt attack on freedom of speech and goes nowhere good. It is a disgustingly political move, one that makes Maine MORE discriminatory than we'd be without it. It opens more doors to unfair arrests of law abiding, justice loving people. I think all of you on this committee already know that LD1351 does nothing towards furthering protections. It is a misuse of the word "antisemitism" to legitimize unfair and illegal repression of dissent. It's equivalent to saying that being critical of Hamas makes me hateful towards all Muslims. It's ridiculous and duplicitous and profane. What good is a law that would find the very people it purports to defend in violation of its wording? This law enables the exact kind of tyranny that is destroying our public institutions. It duplicates the problems that AIPAC Democrats and Republicans in the rest of the country have brought to our once great nation and Maine doesn't need it. I don't know why we've accepted such a load of specifically Israeli propaganda, but that's all this is. I am against antisemitism. Reject LD 1351. It does not offer protections to Jewish individuals in our state in good faith. This is one of those radical political agendas that is more about international politics than things happening in Maine. You want to have a reason to throw more good people in jail here in Maine? You want to take peaceful protesters off of campus lawns and throw them in jail for being anti-genocide? That's sick. Find a different way. Pay more attention to what we actually need in this State: some integrity.