Robert Kipp Presque Isle LD 1351

I strongly oppose this act.

The IHRA definition of antisemitism - which this act seeks to have Maine adopt - conflates criticism of Israel and Zionism with antisemitism. This incorrect understanding would greatly infringe on free speech and our collective ability to help hold governments, like Israel, accountable. It would have a chilling effect in the realms of journalism, academia, international affairs, and protest.

Weaponizing accusations of antisemitism furthers the discrimination and exclusion of vulnerable communities in the U.S., including Jews. My Jewish friends who protest the war in Gaza would be deemed antisemitic.

It is extremely clear from their actions that the Trump administration and those who support supremacist ideologies are actively trying to suppress free speech & the peaceful right to protest. Do not allow this attack on free speech in Maine.