

Arielle Liakat
Seal Harbor
LD 1351

Dear Representative Griffin,

I am writing to express deep concern regarding LD1351, which seeks to conflate Judaism with Zionism and the state of Israel. While I wholeheartedly oppose antisemitism in all its forms, this bill dangerously blurs the line between a faith and a political ideology.

Judaism is a rich, beautiful, and diverse religion practiced by millions around the world. To tie it inseparably to a nation-state—especially one currently engaged in violent, oppressive actions—risks falsely equating Jewish identity with the policies of the Israeli government. This is not only inaccurate, but deeply harmful.

Since the escalation of violence in Gaza, antisemitism has undeniably risen. But silencing criticism of Israel and Zionism will not protect Jewish communities—it will do the opposite. By allowing Israel to speak on behalf of all Jews, this bill reinforces the antisemitic notion that all Jewish people are responsible for the actions of a government many do not support.

Criticizing a state's human rights violations is not antisemitic—it is a moral obligation. Protecting free speech and standing against bigotry must go hand in hand. For these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose LD1351.

Sincerely,
Arielle L.
Seal Harbor, ME