

Hannah Wunderli
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To the members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Hannah Wunderli and I am a resident of Bangor. I am testifying in opposition to this bill. I strongly believe that the IHRA's definition of antisemitism should not be used in lawmaking. It is well worth noting that sixty distinct humanitarian and civil rights organizations appealed to the UN to abstain from using the IHRA definition in developing its action plan against antisemitism. The IHRA itself is an organization whose members include Israel and several dozen of its closest allies, so it makes sense that it would craft a definition of antisemitism that conflates criticisms of the Israeli government with antisemitic speech. The Israeli government has a vested interest in quieting dissent and it thus wields this definition of antisemitism as a weapon to intimidate and discredit supporters of Palestinian human rights. However, it is not antisemitic to criticize a state's policies. It is not antisemitic to attempt to hold a government accountable for human rights violations. It is not antisemitic to loudly protest the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people. I stand with all of those in our state, including the tremendously brave student demonstrators at Bowdoin, who will not be silent about the crimes against humanity being committed in Gaza which our country has financed and continues to finance. I plead with the Judiciary Committee to stand with us as well.