



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 937</b>		DATE: <b>2/26/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Higher Education and Workforce Development</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>A.J. MOLL</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-488-5124</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>14470, TEALCREST DRIVE</b>		
CITY: <b>CHESTERFIELD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63017</b>
EMAIL: <b>adamjmoll@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 4:43 PM</b>
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I'm in full support of educating students about the holocaust and the definitions in the supporting documents.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ADAM BEREN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>316-833-3777</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>COMBAT ANTISEMITISM MOVEMENT</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>2020 W. BRAMBLEWOOD</b>		
CITY: <b>WICHITA</b>		STATE: <b>KS</b>
		ZIP: <b>67206</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ALESSANDRO MATTINA</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-566-1022</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>1303 LEGACY POINTE LANE</b>		
CITY: <b>FENTON</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63026</b>
EMAIL: <b>alexmattina@icloud.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:47 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>AMY SHMIKLER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>847-867-0130</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>2211 STONERIDGE TERRACE CT</b>		
CITY: <b>CHESTERFIELD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63017</b>
EMAIL: <b>ashmikler@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:40 PM</b>
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**With antisemitism at an all time high in the US, protections against such discrimination in public schools and public postsecondary educational institutions are an absolute must to protect the rights of these students.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ANTHONY STEMATZ-BREITLING</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>7608 PENNSYLVANIA AVE</b>		
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>64114</b>
EMAIL: <b>stembreit@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 1:04 PM</b>
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**I support HB 937 because we need to ensure schools teach about the holocaust to prevent history from repeating itself. We also need to prevent students from experiencing racism and punish those who think it is okay to discriminate based on race.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-440-9000</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE: <b>STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 1535</b>			
CITY: <b>O'FALLON</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63366</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ASHER LUBIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>404-558-3535</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63130</b>
EMAIL: <b>asherlubin@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 3:01 PM</b>	

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

Good afternoon, my name is Asher Lubin. I am a first-year student at WashU, and am originally from Atlanta, Georgia. I would first like to take a moment to thank the committee for allowing me and my peers to speak to you today. I am filled with gratitude for having the ability to live in a nation where my voice and that of others are heard and valued. Being that it is my first year of college, I have found myself acclimating to a new environment, building new relationships, and learning how to live independently... all while my mom nudges me to get enough sleep! But looking back, as a high-school senior when choosing a place to spend the next 4 years of my life, hatred and alienation were things I never foresaw as being issues that I needed to take into account when applying to different schools. It was not until October 7th, that my mindset had taken a sudden shift. The unspeakable horrors that took place that day have shaken me and the Jewish community to our core. It was and continues to be an act of indescribable abhorrence. This day of infamy served as a spark for hatred and discrimination, and its effects have continued to this day. As you may already be well aware, on April 27th, 2024, hundreds of individuals, many of whom were unaffiliated with my institution, took to my then-future campus, setting up an encampment in protest, initiating widespread disruptions and causing extreme distress for Jewish and non-Jewish students alike. It was on this day that I, a recently accepted incoming freshman, got an alert on my phone, and tuned in to an online livestream by one of the protestors capturing the events happening in real time. I was stunned... For hours, I was unable to focus on my homework, my friends, and normal high school senior activities—and my family felt the same way. We watched as the beautiful campus that I was about to call home was stormed, with blatant antisemitic chants ringing in the background. My parents tried to rationalize with me and calm me down, but at the same time, I wondered if they were saying those things to even calm the uncertainties that they themselves were feeling. We were worried but hoped it would disappear and be forgotten by the time I arrived. Though, this was not the case. The issues of discrimination and alienation have accompanied me many times thus far as an undergraduate student. For example, I am a current senator on my school's student government, which is there to focus on advocating for the entire student body's needs. It is here that I still find myself being faced with proposed statements and legislations containing charged rhetoric and justification for the protests on campus and other instances of past controversies that took place at school. These words often carry antisemitic undertones, and in the end, attempt to address grievances of events that occurred nearly a year ago—before I was even a student. But some instances are even more outright. A few months ago, I heard about a graffiti message in a bathroom stall on campus calling for "Death to America and Death to Israel." I felt the same emotions as I had while watching that livestream just months ago, but this time I was there, and that was a building I now frequented. These examples have occurred all while I have heard an innumerable amount of so-called "jokes," "quips," and hurtful comments about my faith,

my people, and the state of Israel—which in reality just serves as a trojan horse for the real message of hatred. This has to stop. I want to thank Representative Hruza and House Bill 937's designers for bringing attention and meaningful change to protect Jewish students and their identities. These formative years in my and others' lives are integral to our success as American citizens, and so it is of the utmost importance to protect students from hatred and alienation.





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BEV EHLEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-608-0168</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>LIBERTY LINK MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 312</b>			
CITY: <b>WARRENTON</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63383</b>
EMAIL: <b>bevehlen@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 6:58 PM</b>	

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Liberty Link Missouri had show. A documentary regarding what has happened on many campuses IN America since Oct. 7. Well actually the demonstration of what has been happening over the years but I was shocked that individuals could be celebrating the horrific actions of Hamas on October 7. Some Jewish students came to share their experience at St. Louis University. LLM wants to see every person equal under the law. Discrimination regarding who/what a person is rather than what the actions are is wrong.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>DAVID WINTON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: <b>JEWISH FEDERATION OF ST. LOUIS</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 1805</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL: <b>david@wintonpolicygroup.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>physical</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 5:44 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>DESTINY ALBRITTON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>2917 W. ROLLINS RD.</b>		
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65203</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>GREG YAWITZ</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-442-3711</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>ST. LOUIS KAPLAN FELDMAN HOLOCAUST MUSEUM</b>		TITLE: <b>BOARD CHAIR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>36 MILLSTONE CAMPUS DRIVE</b>			
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63132</b>
EMAIL: <b>greg@keatproperties.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 8:45 AM</b>	

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My name is Greg Yawitz, and I am the Board Chair of the St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum, I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 937. As an institution dedicated to Holocaust education and the lessons it imparts, the St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum encourages the legislature to consider the importance of enacting measures that ensure educational environments remain free from antisemitic harassment and discrimination. The Holocaust did not begin with concentration camps - it began with words, with unchecked antisemitism, and with discrimination that was tolerated more often than it was condemned. As antisemitic rhetoric and incidents rise across the United States, it is critical that educational institutions be equipped to define, recognize, and respond to antisemitism effectively. This bill provides an essential framework for identifying and addressing antisemitism by incorporating the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism into Missouri's educational policies. Ensuring that antisemitic discrimination is treated equally to other forms of discrimination is a necessary step in safeguarding students and educators from harassment while upholding Missouri's commitment to fostering inclusive learning environments. HB 937 encourages schools to provide antisemitism awareness training and integrate a Jewish American heritage curriculum. Our Museum has a long-standing history of supporting educators in meeting state-mandated Holocaust education requirements and is well-positioned to provide the necessary educational tools, training, and curriculum resources to fulfill these provisions should the bill become law. Antisemitism, Holocaust denial, and Holocaust distortion are not just relics of the past - they are active threats to historical integrity today. Ensuring that Missouri's students receive an accurate and comprehensive education about antisemitism and Jewish history will equip them with the knowledge to recognize and combat hate in all its forms. As Board Chair of the museum, I urge the General Assembly to consider supporting HB 937 as a crucial step in protecting students, faculty, and staff from antisemitic discrimination while strengthening educational frameworks that promote historical accuracy, awareness, and inclusivity. As an institution committed to preserving the past to shape a better future, the St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum stands ready to partner with Missouri's educators and policymakers to ensure the lessons of history continue to serve as a guiding force for generations to come. Please feel free to reach out to our executive director or our staff in any way we can be of assistance.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>HANAN ALMOTORY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-818-5165</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>4118 CONCORDIA AVE</b>		
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63116</b>
EMAIL: <b>hanan314629@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 7:29 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>HON. STACEY G. NEWMAN, RETIRED MISSOURI STATE LEGI</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-494-4399</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>6340 CLAYTON ROAD</b>			
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63117</b>
EMAIL: <b>snewman@missourialliancenetwork.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 5:32 PM</b>	
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As the director of the brand new Missouri Alliance Network, we strongly encourage the committee to support HB937 and to define into law necessary protections against discrimination and antisemitism in public education institutions. Our sole mission is to root out antisemitism in our state. We are a state wide political action committee with an extensive board and advisory council, designed to promote an alliance with local and state elected officials, as well as business leaders with Missouri's Jewish community and Israel. We aim to educate those in elected office, from city halls to school boards to the state legislature, about the values of our community and Israel, while fighting back against those with antisemitic views: [www.missourialliancenetwork.com](http://www.missourialliancenetwork.com). Anti-Jewish hate has no place in our state. Yet we've already seen hate become commonplace and acceptable, specifically directed towards our large St. Louis Jewish community since October 7th, 2023. Many of us live in fear for the safety of our families and synagogues and have witnessed the hate personally. I have experienced ugly slurs and taunts, hate mail, angry protests directed at me at my place of work and much more, even from those I considered former friends/colleagues - for the sole reason that I happen to be Jewish. I am very nervous about the safety of those in our Jewish Orthodox community - because their faith observance is much more visible than many. This hate must stop. HB937 is just one step in effecting antisemitism in Missouri, by focusing on what is needed within our public education systems. The absolute right thing to do is to vote YES to advance HB937 to the Missouri Governor's desk to be signed into law this year. Thank you.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEN BERNSTEIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-993-5181</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN ST. LOUIS</b>		TITLE: <b>ADVOCACY MANAGER</b>
ADDRESS: <b>295 NORTH LINDBERGH BLVD.</b>		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b> ZIP: <b>63141</b>
EMAIL: <b>jbernstein@ncjwstl.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 8:59 AM</b>

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Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony in support of HB 937. My name is Jen Bernstein and I am the Advocacy Manager of National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis (NCJWSTL). NCJWSTL is a non-profit organization in metropolitan St. Louis, representing over 5,000 members and supporters throughout the state. We focus our work on community service, advocacy, education and philanthropy to improve the lives of women, children and families and have been doing so since 1895. HB 937 bill would prohibit antisemitic conduct and integrate the definition of antisemitism into codes of conduct within public schools. As the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors and as the mom of a 10th grader attending a Missouri public high school, I am absolutely horrified by the increase and normalization of antisemitism since October 7, 2023. According to a recently released report by the ADL, there have been over 10,000 antisemitic incidents since that awful day, the highest number of incidents in any year since the group started keeping track in 1979. Students are especially susceptible to the proliferation of misinformation on social media sites such as TikTok and Instagram. Social media platforms have been a center of growth for antisemitism, especially when celebrities are exacerbating the issue. Whether its Kanye West's proud embrace of Nazism or Billie Eilish's open support of Hamas, students can fall victim to such rhetoric, and this often manifests itself into real-life consequences. School must be a safe place for students to learn, and HB 973 would do so by mandating public schools treat harassment or discrimination motivated by antisemitic intent in the same manner as discrimination based on race. NCJWSTL urges you to vote yes on HB 937.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JILL M MOGIL</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-517-5893</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>8031 GANNON AVENUE</b>		
CITY: <b>ST LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63130</b>
EMAIL: <b>jillmogil@aol.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 9:48 PM</b>
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I wholeheartedly support the passage of HB937. How sad that in our time antisemitism has reared its ugly head so prominently in our public schools and colleges, creating a hostile environment for those of the Jewish faith who study and work there. They need the extra protection that HB 937 provides so that they can feel safe and included in these public institutions. Passing this bill is necessary and the right thing to do.





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JONATHAN GELUDA LEWIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>954-551-2303</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>19455 PRESIDENTIAL WAY</b>		
CITY: <b>MIAMI</b>		STATE: <b>FL</b>
		ZIP: <b>33179</b>
EMAIL: <b>jonathanlewin0@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>physical</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 1:24 PM</b>
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Members of the higher education and workplace development committee, I am Jonathan Geluda Lewin and I represent myself. I am a Jewish student at Washington University in St. Louis. During my time at the university, the administration has done a comparatively great job at preventing and responding to antisemitic incidents from its Students, Faculty, and Staff following the horrific attacks on October 7th 2023. Their response to the attempted encampments during the spring semester of 2024 was commendable. They've maintained a policy of free speech on campus while imposing time, place, and manner restrictions in accordance with recent Supreme Court decisions. Though overall good, there have unfortunately been a few notable incidents. I was doxed and called a genocider last semester due to my affiliation with a Jewish group during the latest student government elections. Several students have introduced resolutions in the student government to implement BDS and defund the Washington University police department due to their involvement in enforcing the law and university policy. I support this law because it will ensure that other educational institutions follow best practices when dealing with antisemitism and identify where it may be purposely obscured. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 937</b>		DATE: <b>2/26/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Higher Education and Workforce Development</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JORDAN KADOSH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>ADL</b>		TITLE: <b>REGIONAL DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63105</b>
EMAIL: <b>jkadosh@adl.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 10:34 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) is submitting testimony regarding HB 937’s Title VI provisions, which requires school boards and postsecondary educational institutions to adopt a policy and provide training relating to discrimination and antisemitism and provide for Title VI Coordinators to ensure compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. As you may know, ADL is a leading anti-hate organization founded in 1913 with a mission to “stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all.” Today, ADL continues to fight all forms of antisemitism and bias, using innovation and partnerships to drive impact. A global leader in combating antisemitism, countering extremism and battling bigotry wherever and whenever it happens, ADL works to ensure a just and inclusive society for all. We are facing a troubling rise in antisemitism, particularly on college and university campuses and in our K-12 schools. During the 2023-2024 academic year, ADL recorded over 1,400 antisemitic incidents on campuses across the nation. On numerous occasions, disturbing rhetoric escalated into aggressive actions, as protests morphed into encampments that included calls for universities to cut ties with Jewish institutions and were frequently sites of harassment against Jewish people on campus. These activities created an environment of fear and hostility for Jewish students and faculty. According to ADL’s Audit of Antisemitic Incidents, in 2023, Missouri had a 143% increase in antisemitic K-12 school incidents from 2022. Further, ADL in partnership with Hillel International and College Pulse fielded a survey of college students at 135 universities across the United States. The results were reported on Thursday, January 30th and noted that 83% of Jewish college students have experienced or witnessed antisemitism firsthand since the October 7th attack. 41% of Jewish students felt the need to hide their Jewish identity and one-in-four felt compelled to take security precautions. The most alarming statistic is that two-thirds of Jewish students lack confidence in their university’s ability to prevent antisemitic incidents. That is why the creation of Title VI coordinators is so crucial in this current environment. Title VI states that “no person in the United States shall, on the basis of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” This includes discrimination based on a group’s actual or perceived shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics. A hostile environment exists if the harassment denies or limits a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from the institution’s educational programs and activities. Colleges and universities must take prompt action that is reasonably calculated to end the harassment, eliminate the hostile environment, and prevent the harassment from recurring, or they risk violating Title VI. However, students are not always aware of these protections under Title VI, or how to engage them effectively. At the same time, colleges and universities may not be equipped to comply with Title VI and ensure that all students are protected from discrimination and harassment. Legislation such as HB 937 seeks to address this issue by requiring each State institution of higher learning and local**

**school systems to designate Title VI Coordinators. These coordinators would be tasked with overseeing compliance with Title VI, documenting and investigating complaints, and filing annual reports to the Missouri General Assembly. This individual would serve a purpose similar to a Title IX Coordinator, which is already in place at the University of Missouri system, state colleges, and community colleges. -Jordan Kadosh Regional Director, ADL Heartland**



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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>KEITH BEARDSLEE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-619-9202</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>542 N. CLAY AVE.</b>		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63122</b>
EMAIL: <b>keith.beardslee@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 5:23 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Antisemitism is surging across U.S. cities and in our education institutions with many unaware of what they are protesting or the true cause they are supporting. On college campuses, Jewish students are facing harassment and being verbally assaulted because of their identity. What is taking place on college campuses, and in cities around the world, brings back painful memories of what the Jewish people faced preceding and during the Holocaust. Those who forget the lessons of history are doomed to repeat them. "Never again" was what the world said after we discovered the horrors of the Holocaust. It's troubling that some even claim that the Holocaust never happened. We owe it to Holocaust survivors and their families to educate future generations of what happened to the Jewish people during the Holocaust to ensure a tragedy like this never happens again. We can't remain silent as antisemitism surges across our country and the world. I urge the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee to pass Rep. George Hruza's HB 937.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>LINDA KRAM</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>1114 MIDIRON AVENUE</b>		
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63132</b>
EMAIL: <b>lindakram@charter.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 5:04 PM</b>
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All forms of discrimination should be treated as bigotry and should not be allowed on campus.



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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARCIA CORNFELD</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-954-3721</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>21 WEST LADUE ESTATES DRIVE</b>		
CITY: <b>CREVE COEUR</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63141</b>
EMAIL: <b>mjcornfeld@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 10:18 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I support BB 937 because it will keep the scourge of antisemitism out of our public schools and institutions of higher learning. Antisemitism should not be treated differently from discrimination based on race and, under this bill it won't be.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MIKE MINOFF</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-750-1778</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>15 CARTER CT</b>		
CITY: <b>OLIVETTE</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63132</b>
EMAIL: <b>mikeminoff@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 1:14 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Thank you for taking the time to discuss this bill and more importantly, the increase in antisemitism locally, nationally and worldwide. My 4 children (elementary school, middle school and high school) have all seen various levels of antisemitism over the last 2 years. This year the school district added antisemitic hate speech to it's code of conduct, but prior to this year, most hate speech went unpunished. What we are seeing at colleges, where Jewish students are being attacked and prevented from accessing buildings is nothing more than Nazi antics. These actions must be prevented and the best way to do that is to punish the attackers. Thank you for your time.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MYRON FREEDMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-442-3747</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>36 MILLSTONE CAMPUS DR</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63146</b>
EMAIL: <b>mfreedman@stlholocaustmuseum.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 8:27 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 937. As an institution dedicated to Holocaust education and the lessons it imparts, the St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum encourages the legislature to consider the importance of enacting measures that ensure educational environments remain free from antisemitic harassment and discrimination. The Holocaust did not begin with concentration camps - it began with words, with unchecked antisemitism, and with discrimination that was tolerated more often than it was condemned. As antisemitic rhetoric and incidents rise across the United States, it is critical that educational institutions be equipped to define, recognize, and respond to antisemitism effectively. This bill provides an essential framework for identifying and addressing antisemitism by incorporating the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism into Missouri's educational policies. Ensuring that antisemitic discrimination is treated equally to other forms of discrimination is a necessary step in safeguarding students and educators from harassment while upholding Missouri's commitment to fostering inclusive learning environments. HB 937 encourages schools to provide antisemitism awareness training and integrate a Jewish American heritage curriculum. Our Museum has a long-standing history of supporting educators in meeting state-mandated Holocaust education requirements and is well-positioned to provide the necessary educational tools, training, and curriculum resources to fulfill these provisions should the bill become law. Antisemitism, Holocaust denial, and Holocaust distortion are not just relics of the past - they are active threats to historical integrity today. Ensuring that Missouri's students receive an accurate and comprehensive education about antisemitism and Jewish history will equip them with the knowledge to recognize and combat hate in all its forms. We urge the General Assembly to consider supporting HB 937 as a crucial step in protecting students, faculty, and staff from antisemitic discrimination while strengthening educational frameworks that promote historical accuracy, awareness, and inclusivity. As an institution committed to preserving the past to shape a better future, the St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum stands ready to partner with Missouri's educators and policymakers to ensure the lessons of history continue to serve as a guiding force for generations to come.





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>NANCY C TAXMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>636-536-0036</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>951 CHESTERFIELD VILLAS CIRCLE</b>		
CITY: <b>CHESTERFIELD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63017</b>
EMAIL: <b>nanctaxm@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 11:06 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**Keep all students safe but physical and emotional harm. Our country is now in the deep darkness of hate, it is coming from the top. Step up and at least speak up! Nancy Taxman Chesterfield, Mo.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>NANCY DESLOGE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-662-6525</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>862 WOOD AVE.</b>		
CITY: <b>KIRKWOOD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63122</b>
EMAIL: <b>nancy.desloge@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 3:04 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**Jewish students are feeling vulnerable from increasing antisemitic attacks, and need protection. This bill mandates that public schools and public postsecondary institutions treat harassment or discrimination motivated by antisemitic intent just as they would treat racial discrimination. Both forms of discrimination deserve protection. I support calling out antisemitism in codes of conduct and requiring schools to prohibit antisemitic behavior and enforce penalties when such conduct occurs.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>NANCY F HIRSCH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-541-1817</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>13243 WINDBROOKE LANE</b>		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63146</b>
EMAIL: <b>Hirschjam@aol.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 6:58 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I applaud your efforts to combat discrimination and antisemitism within public educational institutions. Thank you so much for joining in to fight antisemitism and ensure Jewish students feel safe and protected.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>NANCY LISKER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-809-1639</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE/401 C 3</b>		TITLE: <b>REGIONAL DIRECTOR AJC</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>15 WEST LADUE ESTATES DRIVE</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63141</b>
EMAIL: <b>liskern@ajc.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 11:57 PM</b>	

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My name is Nancy Lisker. I am the Regional Director of American Jewish Committee (AJC) in St. Louis. I am testifying in support of HB 937 due to the alarming rise of Jew hatred in America and in our state. Following are key statistics, resulting from AJC's recently published State of Antisemitism in America Report (SOAR) 2024. Key Findings-----Where the American General Public StandsA majority of U.S. adults (72%) say antisemitism is a problem in the U.S. today.Almost 6 in ten (59%) U.S. adults say antisemitism has increased in the U.S. in the past five years, and the vast majority (88%) of this group say they are concerned by the increase.Nine in 10 (90%) U.S. adults say antisemitism affects society as a whole and everyone is responsible for combating it.---How Antisemitism has affected the life of American Jews since October 7, 202377% of American Jews say they feel less safe as a Jewish person in the U.S. because of the October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorist attacks.Nearly six in 10 (56%) American Jews say they altered their behavior out of fear of antisemitism in 2024 – a sharp increase from previous years. In 2023, this number was 46%, and 38% in 2022.90% of American Jews say antisemitism has increased in the U.S. since the Hamas terrorist attacks.One-third (33%) of American Jews say they have been the personal target of antisemitism – in person or virtually – at least once over the last year.---IMPORTANTLY, while Antisemitism has affected American Jews across the board, it's effects are felt more deeply among Young American Jews. This is the main reason why AJC is submitting this testimony in support of passage of HB 937 Protections Against Discrimination in Educational Settings.Four in 10 (41%) young American Jews, ages 18-29, said they have been the target of antisemitism at least once in the past 12 months.35% of American Jewish college students report experiencing antisemitism at least once during their time on campus.Over one in four (32%) American Jewish college students say they have felt uncomfortable or unsafe at a campus event because of their Jewish identity.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>NICKOLAY REMIZOV</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-665-4393</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>70 N. GRAND BLVD.</b>		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63703</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RABBI ZEEV SMASON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-749-5271</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>COALITION FOR JEWISH VALUES MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>CHAIRMAN</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>19 BON MILLS DRIVE</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63132</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>RACHEL BRAY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>605 LYNN HAVEN LANE</b>		
CITY: <b>HAZELWOOD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63042</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>REBEKAH BERKOWITZ</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-520-4394</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>6832 HANCOCK AVE</b>		
CITY: <b>ST LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63139</b>
EMAIL: <b>rebek_b@sbcglobal.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 3:56 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Sadly, antisemitism is a significant problem in our nation just as much as racial discrimination is. In my lifetime I have had to deal with my fair share of it. Fortunately, it is in our schools that citizens and future citizens can learn right from wrong. Therefore I urge you to pass this bill that requires these institutions to treat harassment or discrimination motivated by antisemitic intent in the same manner as discrimination based on race. It is vital that our educational institutions incorporate the definition of antisemitism into their codes of conduct for students, faculty, and employees, and to enforce penalties for violations accordingly.





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>RICK CORNFELD</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-608-6318</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>21 LADUE ESTATES DR</b>		
CITY: <b>CREVE COEUR</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63141</b>
EMAIL: <b>rcornfeld@cornfeldlegal.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 1:32 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I support this important legislation because it will help keep the scourge of antisemitism out of our state's public schools and institutions of higher learning. Antisemitism should not be treated differently from discrimination motivated by race, and this bill assures it won't be. We also applaud the bill's adoption of the widely used definition of antisemitism adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, including its contemporaneous examples.



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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SAMUEL ZITIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>317-710-0925</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>926 JEANERETTE DRIVE</b>		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63130</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Higher Education and Workforce Development</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SHAUNA FAYE KRUGER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>515-557-0560</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>1133 NOONING TREE DRIVE</b>		
CITY: <b>CHESTERFIELD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63017</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>STEPHANIE BEATTIE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>618-560-8860</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>6148 VICTORIA</b>		
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63139</b>
EMAIL: <b>sbeattie49@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:46 PM</b>
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>STEVEN H SCHLESINGER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-909-7023</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>9917 HOLLISTON COURT</b>		
CITY: <b>LADUE</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63124</b>
EMAIL: <b>schlesingersteven@sbcglobal.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 6:28 AM</b>
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**Although I haven't read the entire bill. I think it's just an obvious statement. We wouldn't want discrimination against any race, religion or sexual orientation or quite frankly anything in our schools. It must stop.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>TRACI GOLDSTEIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-308-3975</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>13257 COCHERO DRIVE</b>			
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63141</b>
EMAIL: <b>traci.goldstein2@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 1:53 PM</b>	
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It is ninety years after the single greatest genocide that we have ever seen, and here we are. We are a sovereign state in this country and must do more to educate on the Holocaust. While I can't be there in person to testify due to my health. I am going to be watching this bill and collecting receipts. And if you don't vote for it, you're going to hear from me. Please let our state shine and pass this legislation.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>AAMNA ANWER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>WEBSTER GROVES</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63119</b>
EMAIL: <b>aamna.anwer@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 5:04 PM</b>
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The IHRA definition of antisemitism includes criticism of the acts done by the state of Israel as antisemitic speech. Criticism of a state actor/government should be protected speech. Antisemitism is a heinous act and should not be tolerated. Criticism of government actions should never be criminalized by a democracy. Adopting this definition undermines the first amendment of the United States.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ABDULLAH JABR</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-691-6494</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>142 E POTTLE AVE</b>		
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63129</b>
EMAIL: <b>advantageroofing@hotmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 5:43 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ABDULMAJID MOAD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>INDEPENDENCE</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>64055</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ALMA JARBOU</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MIZZOU STUDENTS FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65203</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>AMNA ALZHRANI</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>amymarkusson666@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 10:37 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**Seriously? We can't compare Isreal to nazi's but its ok for us to critique our own government and say certain American policies & politicians are nazis?? Why are you so determined to infringe on our freedom of speech? I thought this was the land of the free? Or is it the land of the free as long as you listen to your AIPAC handlers?**



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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ANDREA DICARLO</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64111</b>
EMAIL: <b>dicarlodrea@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 1:43 PM</b>	
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**This is an attempt to silence criticism of israel on college campuses. This definition of antisemitism is controversial at best. This bill would curtail free speech and, frankly, would not provide new protection against antisemitism. More broadly, this gets in the way of both educators' ability to teach and students' ability to express themselves politically.**



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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRIAN CARTHANS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>618-420-4496</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>2849 PESTALOZZI ST.</b>		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63118</b>
EMAIL: <b>b.carthans@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 10:29 AM</b>
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For people who don't understand the colonial history of israel, I would recommend they look into the colonial history of a nation once called Rhodesia. It was an apartheid state controlled by a racial minority that was dissolved after a global boycott, divestment, and sanction campaign against the so-called State. That state is now called South Africa, and the state that israeli soldiers currently occupy is called Palestine.



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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHRISTIAN FROMMELT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-323-6854</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63118</b>
EMAIL: <b>christian.frommelt@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 5:26 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		



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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHRISTOPHER HENRY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-570-5175</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>3313 BERVEW LN</b>		
CITY: <b>STL</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63125</b>
EMAIL: <b>chenry2020@mail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 11:08 AM</b>
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**I am vehemently opposed to this atrocious piece of legislation.It violates the first amendment and is biased and racist.**



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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ELISA FORGELMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>ST LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
EMAIL: <b>esugar2601@yahoo.com</b>		ZIP:
ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 3:14 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I am in opposition to HB 937 For the following reasons :1. Placing restrictions on speech about Israel that is applied to no other country, including our own Is wrong and UnAmerica. Missouri should not create a speech code to protect a foreign country.2. The IHRA definition wrongly isolates antisemitism from other forms of oppression and ultimately weakens the fight against antisemitism and all forms of bigotry. As a Jew and a Missouri resident, this is of personal concern to me. 3. Attempts to codify the definition into law in the U.S., or to adopt the definition at the institutional level have been opposed by a broad cross-section of organizations. These include civil liberties groups such as the ACLU, international human rights groups such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International and the editorial boards of The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, and The Washington Post. I stand with these organizations and the many others standing against codifying of the word “antisemitism” into law. 4. The definition of antisemitism in HB 746 and HB 937 does not differentiate between systemic and individual antisemitism, nor does it help identify the different forms of beliefs, tropes, speech, acts, discrimination, property damage, and violence that racism and antisemitism may take. It also fails to identify white supremacy as a root cause of antisemitism. Instead, the IHRA definition’s primary focus is branding criticism of the Israeli government and state as antisemitic, making it a tool to shield the Israeli government from accountability.Thanks you for your consideration and it is my hopes this bill will not pass





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ELIZABETH LINHARES</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>408-882-7772</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: <b>WEBSTER GRVS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63119</b>
EMAIL: <b>linhares.liz@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 7:50 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I can't believe in 2025 we are having to fight legislation that flies in the face of our very first amendment. The last thing this state, country, or college campuses needs is an attack on free speech, especially on a topic like this. This legislative body and politicians on the whole have gone from America first to Israel lobby first. Wildly embarrassing and anti-American. Do not pass this ridiculous bill if you want any of us taking any of you seriously as Americans ever again.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ETHAN CRAWFORD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>800 OLIVE STREET</b>		
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63101</b>
EMAIL: <b>ethanglassworks@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 7:52 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>EUGENIE BANG</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>847-749-6063</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>5079 WATERMAN BLVD APT #207</b>		
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63108</b>
EMAIL: <b>eugenie7bang@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 8:53 AM</b>
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**Students would face discipline for simply participating in pro Palestine activism. I am in opposition of this bill, which would make it much harder for students to try to free Palestine.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>FARHA IHMOUD</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-215-9174</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: <b>WEBSTER GRVS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63119</b>
EMAIL: <b>fihmoud@me.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:44 PM</b>
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**Please do not take away my voice and my right to the first amendment. Being critical of foreign policies is not antisemitic.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>FM</b>	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>	STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64134</b>
EMAIL: <b>fatmoh@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 9:54 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I stand in opposition to the HB937 which weaponizes language and restricts free speech and debate in the public forums of our educational settings. Specifically, the use in ANY legislation of the IHRA definition of anti-semitism is unacceptable. The IHRA Definition is a highly controversial definition that entangles criticism of the rogue state of Israel with Antisemitism. Even one of its authors publicly opposes its use in public education and legal settings. If passed, this bill would have a direct negative impact on the free speech of Palestinian students and their allies, as well as limit academia and undermine educators' abilities to teach. In addition, this bill is unnecessary and merely a piece a legislation meant to cure favor between whomever introduces and supports it, and zionist institutions, who are equivalently as racist as the KKK and who should be ostracized in our communities for their violent hatred of others. Antisemitism is a real issue and is already covered by various protections on campuses that protect speech, identity, and religion. Unless one could actively support an exact piece of legislation protecting Muslim, Arab, Arab-Adjacent, and Palestinian students' - and their supporters - speech and assembly for causes they believe critical to their safety and expression, this bill should be immediately struck down as inherently discriminatory.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>GEORGE P. SMITH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-999-1829</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>228 EAST PARKWAY DRIVE</b>		
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65203</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Higher Education and Workforce Development</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>HAIDEE CLAUER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>3622 WYOMING</b>		
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>64111</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>HANNAH FLORES-LIBERA</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-565-9079</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>9024 GRAVOIS VIEW CT</b>		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63123</b>
EMAIL: <b>hwrigle@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 11:59 AM</b>
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The IHRA definition wrongly isolates antisemitism from other forms of oppression and ultimately weakens the fight against antisemitism and all forms of bigotry. Use of the definition does nothing to prevent attacks against Jewish people or Judaism, and instead is primarily a tool to censor and silence attempts to hold the Israeli government accountable for human rights violations.





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ISLEEN ATALLAH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65203</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JACK GOLDSTEIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>402-943-6459</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>220 W 2ND STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64105</b>
EMAIL: <b>jackbennettgoldstein@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 10:54 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Dear Committee Members and Staff, I'm writing today as a concerned Jewish constituent of Kansas City, Missouri to voice my opposition to House Bill 937, which aims to codify the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism into the codes of conduct for educational institutions across Missouri. If adopted, this flawed definition of antisemitism will serve only to limit the free speech of students across Missouri campuses, and will do nothing material to keep Jewish communities safe. The IHRA definition of antisemitism highly centers the state of Israel. In the definition's examples of antisemitism, any criticisms of Israel that apply "double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation" are placed on the same level as holocaust denial and making demonizing allegations about the Jewish people. By conflating critiques of Israel with general belittling of the Jewish people, the IHRA muddies the waters of what constitutes antisemitism, and creates a prime tool for censorship. Across the country, I've seen the IHRA definition be cited as justification to shut down and delegitimize student protests, especially Palestinian student protests, against Israel's violent actions in the Middle East. While the definition has been successful at preventing criticism of Israel, it has been unsuccessful at preventing the rise of Nazi ideologies in the United States. As an American Jew, it is not the pro-Palestine student protestors that are making me feel unsafe, but instead the various high profile individuals who are regularly throwing out gestures resembling Nazi salutes on national television, with no expectations to explain the gesture or take accountability for how these gestures might be perceived by neo Nazi movements. I should note that the IHRA definition does not include the use of Nazi symbology on its own as an example of antisemitism. Only the use of these symbols to "characterize Israel or Israelis" is used as an example of antisemitism under the IHRA definition. Requiring schools to adopt this definition would only serve to protect the Israeli government from accountability, not protect American Jewish communities from hatred. The reason the IHRA definition fails to get to the root cause of antisemitism is that it wrongly isolates antisemitism from other forms of bigotry. A primary goal of the IHRA is to combat Holocaust denial, yet while Jewish people were the primary and largest group of victims, other minority groups were persecuted as well, such as Romani people, Slavic people, people with disabilities, homosexual people, and more. This is because bigotry often doesn't stop at just one group. Ultimately, this bill should be redundant with other anti-discrimination laws in place, and I would instead like to see other laws put in place to strengthen these anti-discrimination laws, with the aim to protect all my friends and neighbors, not just my Jewish friends and neighbors. I urge the committee to reject House Bill 937. Thank you, Jack Goldstein



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JACOB BERKOWITZ</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>berk.jacobe@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 1:21 PM</b>	

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I am in opposition to this bill because it is a clear attack on free speech, specifically targeting speech in support of Palestinian human rights. It is fully within our first amendment rights in this country to criticize the actions of governments both foreign and domestically. As a Jewish person I obviously care deeply about the safety of my people, but this Bill is not in service of that, it is in service of protecting against criticisms of the State of Israel. Is there a bill saying we are prohibited from saying that the United States government is racist? No there is not such a bill, because that would be a violation of our first amendment. This bill directly threatens Palestinian peoples by putting censorship on their first amendment rights; by simply telling their lived experience, or that of their families, or friends, could subject them to punishments. That is not only morally wrong, but goes against the United States constitution. To conflate the safety of Jewish people's with the protection of a nation state, is a threat to Jewish people, in that it links our identity with the actions of a government, in doing so actually stripping us of part of our humanity by putting boundaries on who we are allowed to be, which I consider antisemitism. In citing the IHRA definition of antisemitism, one could not reference the Israeli soldier who said "it felt like we (the IDF) were the nazis" in a recent Haaretz article without fear of consequences. This is absurd. It is clear this bill's only objective is to the further oppression of the Palestinian people. It is only using antisemitism as a shield to obscure its main objective, and that is both anti-Palestinian and antisemitic.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JAMES PEPPLER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jpeppler4@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>physical</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 8:45 AM</b>
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**Why support a bill which will not withstand a 1st Amendment Constitutional challenge?**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JANEY ARCHEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-660-6516</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>5401 S GRAND</b>		
CITY: <b>ST LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63111</b>
EMAIL: <b>arচেyjaney@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 7:36 AM</b>
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**This proposed law is only protecting Jews as a religious group and NOT others who are ALSO targeted by racial and religious hate including Palestinian and Muslim students and faculty. I support freedom of speech but Zionism is an ideology that is steeped in white settler supremacy and backed by the United States. It is NOT antisemitism which is institutional hate and discrimination and should be banned like anti-Muslim and Anti Palestinian discrimination.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEANNETTE RAMIREZ</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>BALLWIN</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63021</b>
EMAIL: <b>zaravanilla7@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 2:56 PM</b>
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**This bill is anti free speech and is meant to attack students protesting against genocide.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEFF STACK</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: <b>MID-MO FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>P O BOX 268</b>			
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65205</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEFFREY DIXON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jdixon914@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 2:15 PM</b>
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**This is systemic racism and taking away our freedom of speech.**





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JENNA ROBERSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jroberson1181@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 4:12 PM</b>
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**This is antithetical and a gross violation of the first amendment protections.**



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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JESSICA</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jessicashopperz@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 10:09 AM</b>

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Anti-zionism is not the same as antisemitism. To pretend they're the same is to prolong a dangerous standard where criticism of foreign nations is criminalized. The largest Zionist organization in the US is CHRISTIAN. I was raised a Christian Zionist at a church that I no longer am affiliated with. My Sunday school taught me and my peers that Jewish people needed to migrate to Israel so that the second coming can occur. They also believed those same Jews would not only not go to heaven, but would remain on earth in purgatory. Would critiquing those Christian Zionist organizations and churches now be considered antisemitic as well? And in public schools? Have you no shame? Palestinian families have had entire bloodlines murdered in acts of Israeli terrorism in the last 18 months alone.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JONATHAN SCHMID</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-652-3114</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>POLICY COUNSEL</b>
ADDRESS: <b>906 OLIVE ST., STE 1130</b>		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63144</b>
EMAIL: <b>jschmid@aclu-mo.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 7:34 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JORDAN STRUBELT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-973-4507</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>12902 POLO PARC DR</b>		
CITY: <b>MARYLAND HEIGHTS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63146</b>
EMAIL: <b>jordanstrubelt@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 6:35 PM</b>
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The right to criticize the actions of a country, any country, is critical to maintaining freedom of speech in the United States. Also, equating anti Zionism to anti semitism is bound to create more anti semites from the association of the Jewish faith with the actions of a violent, repressive, apartheid state. And even if you wouldn't agree with this description of Israel then I implore you to have discussions with anti zionists before it is too late for these discussions to happen.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JUNE YIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-312-7984</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>10842 RONDELAY DR</b>			
CITY: <b>CREVE COEUR</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63141</b>
EMAIL: <b>junruiyin02@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 2:43 PM</b>	
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To whom it may concern, I am a student at Washington University in St. Louis. I am also an activist, I am very passionate about human rights both in American and abroad. I believe it is a dangerous move to adopt this IHRA definition of antisemitism. Adopting this law would force public schools and institutions to explicitly discriminate against speech that criticizes the state of Israel, which is unconscionable. I am against all forms of hatred and antisemitism, however this law would classify it as "hateful" to simply advocate for the human rights of Palestinians, Lebanese and any other victims of Israeli colonialism and aggression. I do not believe this silencing of free speech is in the spirit of our Constitution. The Founding Father's imagined a society where everyone is able to participate in the political process, and it is hypocritical to simply classify opinions you don't like as illegal. In fact, even the original author of the IHRA definition of antisemitism has come out against the use of this definition as a political tool. I believe it is important to safeguard our public institutions as places where a robust intellectual sphere can debate ideas and this bill would destroy these principles.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>KEITH ROSE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>3618 BAMBERGER AVENUE</b>		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63118</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LEOR SHOMRONI</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-915-1816</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>LUKE JENSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-673-3323</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>119 LINDELL DRIVE</b>		
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65203</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MADELEINE L KECK</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>618-207-0950</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>211 MEADOW DRIVE</b>			
CITY: <b>TROY</b>		STATE: <b>IL</b>	ZIP: <b>62294</b>
EMAIL: <b>Madeleinekeck211@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 10:56 AM</b>	
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While schools and other state funded operations should be opposed to antisemitism and fight for the equal treatment of all groups, this bill does not fight for that. Rather it stands on the side of oppression by silencing students political beliefs about the Israeli Palestinian conflict. Not only should is this harmful due to taking away the voices of students on a very important issue, but also in the way that it conflates Judaism with the Israeli state. This is a harmful belief that has lead to antisemitic acts and beliefs towards international Jewish people. Therefore, the bill completely acts against its own self interest, unless that interest is to quell student activism, which if it is, should at least be open about that goal.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 937</b>		DATE: <b>2/26/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Higher Education and Workforce Development</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MALIK LENDELL</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-798-2042</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>3426 TENNESSEE AVENUE</b>		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63118</b>
EMAIL: <b>lendellmalik@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 9:50 PM</b>
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This just sounds like an attempt to block particular forms of free speech. If it were a genuine attempt to address discrimination it would include antiBlack racism, antiMuslim bigotry, homophobia, etc.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARK HAIM</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-442-2360</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>1402 RICHARDSON</b>		
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65201</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MCKENZIE ORTIZ</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>316-312-0296</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>1619 WILSON AVENUE, APT A</b>		
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>	STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65201</b>
EMAIL: <b>mckenzieportiz@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 7:57 AM</b>
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While I firmly stand against antisemitism and believe in the importance of protecting students from discrimination in educational settings, this bill poses significant risks to free speech, academic freedom, and legitimate political discourse. Specifically, HB 937 incorporates the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, a definition which has repeatedly been used to suppress legitimate criticism of Israeli government policies, particularly regarding the treatment of Palestinians. Although the bill attempts to reassure critics by stating that criticism of Israel similar to criticism of any other country shall not be considered antisemitic, experience in other states and universities demonstrates otherwise. Policies based on the IHRA definition have regularly led to unjust targeting of students, faculty, and staff who advocate for Palestinian human rights. By requiring educational institutions to integrate this definition into codes of conduct, HB 937 places students, faculty, and employees at risk of investigation or disciplinary action for speech or activism protected by the First Amendment. This sets a dangerous precedent, creating a chilling effect on free speech, academic freedom, and open discourse about critical international issues. Antisemitism is a serious and growing threat that must be addressed forcefully and directly. However, the approach proposed in HB 937 risks conflating genuine antisemitism with protected speech critical of a government's human rights abuses. Protecting Jewish students and staff from discrimination and harassment does not require—and must not involve—limiting criticism of Israel's policies, especially when those policies directly impact the human rights of Palestinians. Legislation addressing antisemitism should clearly distinguish between hate-based discrimination and protected political advocacy. I urge you to oppose HB 937 to protect the free expression, academic integrity, and critical discourse that are essential to our educational institutions and our democracy. Thank you for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL BERG</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-456-1954</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>SAINT LOUIS JEWISH VOICE FOR PEACE</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>1459 GREGG AVENUE</b>		
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63139</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL E BERG</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-456-1954</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>1459 GREGG AVE.</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63139</b>
EMAIL: <b>mistermichaelberg@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>physical</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 9:20 AM</b>	
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House Bill 937 would adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, including its contemporary examples, into codes of conduct for public universities and secondary schools in Missouri. This controversial and widely discredited working definition of antisemitism conflates criticism of the Israeli state with antisemitism - placing restrictions on speech about Israel that is to no other country, including our own. Please oppose House Bill 937. The IHRA definition wrongly isolates antisemitism from other forms of oppression and ultimately weakens the fight against antisemitism and all forms of bigotry. Use of the definition does nothing to prevent attacks against Jewish people or Judaism, and instead is primarily a tool to censor and silence attempts to hold the Israeli government accountable for human rights violation. By design, the IHRA definition's focus on branding multiple types of criticism of Israel as antisemitic makes it a tool to silence Palestinians and shield the Israeli government from accountability for its violations of Palestinian rights. Attempts to codify the definition into law in the U.S., or to adopt the definition at the institutional level have been opposed by a broad cross-section of organizations. These include civil liberties groups such as the ACLU, FIRE, and the Center for Constitutional Rights; Palestinian and Israeli groups such as Adalah, Addameer, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, Al-Haq, Breaking the Silence, B'Tselem, Gisha, Physicians for Human Rights-Israel, Yesh Din, HaMoked; international human rights organizations such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, US-based social justice, Jewish, and Palestinian groups such as Palestine Legal, Jewish Voice for Peace, US Campaign for Palestinian Rights, Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, the Progressive Israel Network which includes organizations such as J Street, Americans for Peace Now, New Israel Fund, and T'ruah, and the editorial boards of The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, and The Washington Post. Even the lead author of the IHRA definition, Kenneth Stern, has opposed attempts to codify the definition into law. The type of speech code demanded by HB 937 could make professors fear publishing and teaching their academic findings with regards to Israel. It would make students fearful of writing and speaking their thoughts on the subject. This would especially make Palestinian and Palestinian-American students more fearful about sharing with teachers and peers their actual experiences living under Israel control. It would also, in the name of protecting Jewish students and professors, create an atmosphere of fear for the growing number of Jewish students and professors who are speaking out against Israel's abuses of Palestinians. Missouri should not create a speech code to protect a foreign country. The definition of antisemitism in HB 937 does not differentiate between systemic and individual antisemitism, nor does it help identify the different forms of beliefs, tropes, speech, acts, discrimination, property damage, and violence that racism and antisemitism may take. It also fails to identify white supremacy as a root cause of antisemitism. Instead, the IHRA definition's primary focus is branding criticism of the Israeli government and state as antisemitic,

making it a tool to silence Palestinians and shield the Israeli government from accountability. The IHRA definition is so controversial and widely opposed that over 200 prominent scholars in Jewish, Holocaust, Palestine/Israel, and Middle East studies launched an alternative definition called the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism, specifically developed as a corrective to IHRA's problematic conflation of criticism of Israel with antisemitism and its attacks on free speech and Palestinian rights. Existing laws already prohibit antisemitic discrimination and harassment at public schools. HB 937 is therefore not needed to protect Jewish students, and would only serve to police and censor speech critical of the Israeli government and State. Students and faculty across college campuses are already experiencing shocking levels of repression of their right to political dissent and free speech. The Congressional hearings in the House of Representatives over the last year have demonstrated a coordinated effort to intentionally and falsely conflate anti-war activism and advocacy for Palestinian rights with antisemitism, to devastating consequences for students, faculty, and educational institutions. This repression opposes the fundamental principles upon which our nation was founded. The Israeli government's bombardment and siege of Gaza has killed at least 46,000 people in just over a year, probably far more, and the International Court of Justice has found that Israel's actions constitute a plausible case of genocide. As this assault has expanded and grown more deadly, so too have attempts to attack and censor the free speech rights of individuals across the U.S. who are engaging in peaceful antiwar protest. These attempts to stop political dissent are particularly acute on college campuses. House Bill 937 is another attempt to silence and shut down political conversation and debate and would have devastating impacts on students and faculty across the state. Those who vote for this bill, either as Democrats or Republican, will demonstrate profound hypocrisy as for each party this bill will support what their party claims to oppose. Democrats claim to believe in human rights, proactive opposition to racism, and academic freedom. This bill would limit academic freedom by creating codes of conducts at schools that stop teachers and students from working for racial justice by opposing the racist structures in place in the State of Israel. For over a decade Republicans have claimed that the free exchange of ideas at our college campuses has been stifled by overzealous speech codes meant to coddle oversensitive students and faculty who are triggered by hearing things that they don't want to hear. This bill would stifle the free exchange of ideas at our college campuses by enacting a speech code meant to coddle a small segment of students and faculty who are triggered by hearing things that they don't want to hear about a foreign state. It also directly contradicts House Bill 875 which was just perfected. The inclusion of the contemporary examples is the key problem (and the key reason this is being pushed). The contemporary examples mostly deal not with protecting Jews in educational institutions from discrimination and harassment but instead make stipulations about what can and cannot be said about the foreign nation of Israel. No other foreign nation (or even the United States itself) receives this kind of codified protection from criticism in public schools. The main problem with the IHRA definition of antisemitism is not base of the definition itself, but the contemporary examples, which if HB 937 passes would be enshrined as part of the definition. These three examples stand out to me.- "Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor" - The State of Israel is a racist endeavor. Amnesty International has said this, Human Rights Watch has said this, Israeli human right organization B'Tselem has said this. They have all correctly called Israel and apartheid state, based on enormous amounts of research and analysis. It claims to be the state of the Jewish people even though slightly more than half of the people it controls are not Jewish. Will students and faculty face discipline, expulsion or other sanctions for quoting Amnesty International or Israeli human rights organizations? Can people not debate the wisdom of ethno-nationalism on campus? - "Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation." - This assumes that we all agree that Israel is a democratic nation. Who decides what is and is not a democratic nation? Who decides what is and is not a double standard? What reason is there to enshrine into law what can and cannot be said about these issues except for the protection of a foreign state from criticism? - "Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis." - A recent article in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz quoted an Israel soldier, who said about his actions in Gaza "it looked exactly like we were actually the Nazis and they were the Jews". If this passes, could students or faculty or staff at Missouri schools and university face disciplinary actions for quoting an Israel soldier in a quote published in an Israeli newspaper? <https://www.haaretz.com/opinion/2024-12-23/ty-article-opinion/.premium/when-you-enter-gaza-you-are-god-inside-the-minds-of-idf-soldiers-who-commit-war-crimes/00000193-f2a4-dc18-a3db-fee62b540000> Please reject House Bill 937.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Higher Education and Workforce Development</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MITCHELL BRIAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>913-488-5427</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>5427 FAIRWAY RD</b>			
CITY: <b>MISSION</b>		STATE: <b>KS</b>	ZIP: <b>66205</b>
EMAIL: <b>MitchB1313@aol.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 1:05 PM</b>	
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My name is Mitch Brian and I am a professor in the Media Art and Design Department at UMKC. I have been an educator there and elsewhere for almost 40 years. My family is Jewish. I wanted to write about the upcoming, well-intentioned but problematic bill HB937 and urge you to vote "no." The Bill prohibits state funded educational institutions from engaging in practices or implementing policies that "promote or tolerate antisemitism." And empower the AG to investigate such acts. Antisemitism "means the same as defined as IHRA's working definition and its examples." The problem with the IHRA Definition is that it's working examples almost all tie back to Israel. Given that, the definition has been used largely as a cudgel against pro Palestine demonstrations that are not antisemitic. The definition also has some pretty huge gaps in it that make it very unhelpful with regard to the biggest antisemitic threats in the US: white supremacy & Christian nationalism. For instance, I'm pretty sure Musk's Nazi Salute does not rate being considered antisemitic based solely on the IHRA Definition's criteria. In our household (and in my classroom) we believe that opposing the government of Israel is not being antisemitic. We can criticize it and its policies and still observe our faith. For example, saying Israel was built on racist foundations likely would meet the bill's definition. This is not good. Most of all it limits what can be said in the classroom. As a teacher I resent this. The choice of definition and expanded enforcement powers will have a chilling effect specifically in academia and on campuses. If we actually want to fight antisemitism, arguing over its definition and conflating it with opposition to Israel & anti-zionism muddies the water. It actually narrows our scope rather than breaking down the structural forces that encourage every other form of bigotry. Thanks for your time! Best, Mitch Brian Teaching Professor UMKC Dept of Media Art and Design Faculty MFA Program in Creative Writing & Media Arts Member Writers Guild of America





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MOISES ROMO</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>ST LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b> ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>moyromo1@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 2:40 PM</b>
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**As a Jewish person, I strongly oppose HB 937, which seeks to suppress free speech and silence those who stand against the genocide of the indigenous Palestinian people. This bill is a blatant attempt to shield the settler state of Israel from criticism by punishing those who speak out against its atrocities. Supporting Palestinian liberation is not antisemitic-it is a stance against apartheid and colonial violence. Missourians have the right to protest injustice without government repression. I urge lawmakers to reject this attack on our freedoms and vote no on HB 937**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MOLLY DESCHAMP</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>913-744-0037</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>9715 HARDY ST</b>			
CITY: <b>OVERLAND PARK</b>		STATE: <b>KS</b>	ZIP: <b>66212</b>
EMAIL: <b>mdeschampisbomb@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 9:44 PM</b>	
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As a student, I'm constantly surrounded by various opinions and examples of free speech. My campus is very diverse, and there's a plethora of views that are expressed. I've met people who believe strongly in the pro Palestinian movement, advocate for an end to discrimination against the Jewish people, and disagree with the working definition of antisemitism. The IHRA's definition of antisemitism is problematic and should not be codified into law. Even it's founder, Ken Stern, stated that it should NOT be a legal instrument. He says that it's often been used as "a blunt instrument to label anyone as an antisemite" (2023). Why are elected officials discounting the opinion of the term's creator when it comes to antisemitism? There are other, better definitions, that detail what antisemitism is and state Israel can be criticized like any other country. Furthermore, what is a double standard? Would it be pointing out human rights abuses against certain religious minorities or other groups that are committed by some Israelis? I urge you, the people who represent the American public, to consider this and to vote no on this bill. There are other definitions, and no one is immune to justified criticism. This bill sets a dangerous precedent for young people who are passionate about politics and anyone else who has opinion that contradicts the IHRA's definition. Criticizing Israel is not antisemitic, and neither is heeding the warnings of Kenneth Stern, the term's originator.



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WITNESS NAME: <b>MOLLY DESCHAMP</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>913-744-0037</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>9715 HARDY ST</b>			
CITY: <b>OVERLAND PARK</b>		STATE: <b>KS</b>	ZIP: <b>66212</b>
EMAIL: <b>mdeschampisbomb@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 10:02 PM</b>	
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Good evening, this is a follow up from my previous statement! I realize that I left out some key details. I live in Kansas and one may ask, why am I submitting testimony for a bill in Missouri? I came across this issue and I thought it was relevant. As a college student, I value free-speech and the right to discuss controversial topics. This bill would annihilate some of that by stifling free speech and making it harder for people to discuss the war. Furthermore, it would be harmful if students in Kansas followed Missouri's example. Thank you for your time!



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>NEAL PATWARI</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>801-610-9638</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>7159 KINGSBURY BLVD</b>		
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63130</b>
EMAIL: <b>neal.patwari@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 4:51 PM</b>
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This bill, as written, defines reasonable debate, even in support of Jewish people, as antisemitism. Specifically, the definition adopted says that "Rhetoric...towards Jewish community institutions" is included as antisemitism. Imagine a case when someone famous gives a Nazi salute, and the ADL says it's ok for them to do so. If I were to criticize the ADL for not taking that action seriously enough, I would by this definition be classified as antisemitic, and in violation of MO law. This is a ridiculous definition of antisemitism, and thus a ridiculous law.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>NEVEEN AYESH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-452-5542</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>1280 BOLAND PL</b>			
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63117</b>
EMAIL: <b>nayesh93@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 2:46 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

To the sponsor of the bill and members of the committee, I have spent the entirety of my 20's at our state capitol attempting to educate our elected officials on the reality of what is happening in occupied Palestine long before the expedited genocide we are witnessing unfold present day. I write to you all as a Palestinian American born in the state of Missouri and raised in occupied Palestine under Israeli occupation — as many of you already know. It is such a shame we are living in the United States of America, a country founded on principles of freedom and freedom of speech, a country where we are able to critique our own government, but somehow are criminalized for for God forbid calling out a criminal entity for the crimes against humanity they are committing against the Palestinian people. That is exact what this legislation seeks to do and has nothing to do with the rhetoric of hate, discrimination, or antisemitism. The same antisemitism no one can seem to define and want to leave open to changing to cater to one specific group of people rather than being anti-discriminate to all groups of people. Forgive me for how cordial I'm about to say the following for I've learned that no matter how many ways we rearrange all the words in the English language, our elected officials continue to hear and see what they want to rather than the reality of the facts at hand and the reality is that rightful criticisms masked in the name of "discrimination" are being made because for what's about to be 17 months in less than two weeks, we have watched our taxes fund one of the worst atrocities to be committed against an entire group of people; the Palestinian people. The internet and social media has unleashed what mainstream media refuses to accurately report on and there is no turning a blind eye away from it. Anyone supporting this legislation are the true racists discriminating against a people undergoing the worst of holocausts and this is just the truth. I unfortunately am unable to make it in person to testify and it is tearing me apart inside because I want to say the above while making direct eye contact with the members of the committee, who I know have been exposed to the truth. I write to you all today to ask that our first amendment rights to freedom of speech are upheld and to vote against this piece of legislation as the IHRA definition was adopted by governor Parson in 2023. You can learn more about what this definition actually means by clicking on or typing the link below. For 16+ months now I have seen nothing but images of israeli soldiers parading around in the lingerie and underclothing of Palestinian women, playing with the toys of the children they murdered, and mocking anyone else in between. I have these images and will be spending time at the capitol next week visiting your offices to show you in person given I am unable to make it in today. Those pushing for this legislation are liars that have done nothing but lie and create chaos not only in this state and the country at large but in the lives of every day people like myself who has done absolutely nothing but try to shed light on the truth they work so hard to cover up. Please consider every word and I look forward to seeing everyone next week. Respectfully, Neveen Ayesh  
<https://x.com/genxgirl1994/status/1869204644549001418?s=46&t=HbNSn-d05HlybFxefN8zUA>



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>NICOLE FIELDS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-239-3122</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>210 NORTH 17TH STREET, UNIT 1001</b>		
CITY: <b>ST LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63103</b>
EMAIL: <b>njfields37@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 3:37 PM</b>
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Passing legislation to classify criticism of the Israeli state as antisemitism trivializes actual antisemitism. It ignores and flattens the definition of antisemitism, thereby endangering the entire American Jewish diaspora. Israel is not and has never been the sole representative of Judaism or the diverse Jewish diaspora. In addition, no country is beyond reproach, and no country has the right to act outside of international law. American students have the right to publicly criticize the Israeli state, particularly when it openly violates human rights. This law would suppress both students' and faculty's right to free speech. It is a dangerous overreach and violation of our constitutional rights. It is insulting, coercive, dishonest, and blatantly disrespectful to real antisemitism. Missourians, and Americans, cannot and will not tolerate this kind of dangerous manipulation.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 937</b>		DATE: <b>2/26/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Higher Education and Workforce Development</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>NOAM PERRY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>goingincognito@duck.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>physical</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 4:59 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

About a hundred years ago, German Nazi politicians started using the term Untermensch, of sub-humans, to describe their enemies. As we all know, this led to the extermination of the Jewish communities in Europe, which including most of my family. About a year and a half ago, the Israeli Minister of Defense referred to Palestinians in Gaza as human animals. As we all know, this led to the mass killing of tens of thousands of Palestinians, mostly civilians. Many of their bodies are still buried under the rubble of their homes, and their lives are still in grave danger. These are undisputed facts. Yet the comparison I just made, between contemporary Israeli policy and Nazi policy and propaganda, is defined as antisemitic speech under this bill. The definition this bill uses is absurd. It is my right and my duty, as a Jewish Israeli and descendant of holocaust survivors, to call for Israel to be held accountable for its war crimes and crimes against humanity. It is in fact the right of every person, including you. To make sure these atrocities never happen again, to the Jewish people, and to all people. You are not allowed to deny that right of me or anyone else. We all know that this bill is not really about fighting antisemitism. And we all know what this bill is really about. It is about singling out Israel for special protections which we don't give to any other country. It is about making sure Israel is never held accountable. And it is about punishing Palestinian students and censoring their political speech. Please do not pass this harmful bill.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>OLIVIA ROSE MORRIS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-746-1918</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>1705 BOLD RULER DRIVE</b>		
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65202</b>
EMAIL: <b>ormorris2001@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 11:02 AM</b>
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I, as an American Indian (Mandan and Spirit Lake Dakota), am opposed to this bill. As someone who has a close relationship to imperialism and colonization, there is no justifiable reason to defend Israeli transgressions against the Palestinians who have historical and cultural ties to the land. Taking away our right to protest against an ethnostate that has committed lifetimes of genocide and terrorism is a clear breach of our first amendment rights as U.S. citizens. It is equally disgusting to equate anti-Zionism to antisemitism and that belief alone is antisemitic as it discounts the countless Jewish individuals who stand against Israel and it's atrocities against the Palestinians. So I, as a standing reminder of the horrors of genocide and colonization, implore you to oppose this bill for the lives of countless people who are being subjected to genocide by the hands of the Israeli occupation.





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>PATRICIA TRACY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>636-699-3260</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>OFALLON</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>pltracy1@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:48 AM</b>
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**This is a very dangerous bill. It would force public high schools and universities to codify into school codes the International Holocaust Remembrance Association definition of antisemitism. It would make it so students and faculty (and others on campus) would face discipline for, among other things, claiming that Israel is intrinsically racist and comparing the action of Israel to the Nazis. It is meant to silence pro-Palestinian activism on campuses and I am against ever silencing voices of any activists on any subject on college campuses. Universities should not be allowed to pick and choose who they will allow to protest and on what subjects**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>RANDALL QUISENBERRY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-819-0054</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>1319 LONDON DRIVE</b>		
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65203</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>REBECCA ANDERSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64110</b>
EMAIL: <b>beccanders@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 9:33 PM</b>	
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It is inappropriate to conflate the actions of Israel with the actions of all Jews, which is what happens when criticism of Israel is treated as criticism of all Jews. The bill is also unnecessary, as antisemitism is already covered by various protections on campuses for religion. We don't need this "protection" at the cost of free speech.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>REECE HOLCOMB</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-728-3350</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>5827 N. MAYVIEW AVENUE</b>		
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>64151</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>RITA M YENCARELLI</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-504-5388</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>1711 GORDON ST</b>		
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65201</b>
EMAIL: <b>rita.marie.yen@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 2:06 PM</b>
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**IHRA's working definition of antisemitism has been widely criticized as dangerously conflating anti-Zionism with antisemitism. This conflating of anti-political ideology with anti-Judaism has no place in Missouri law. This is a blatant attempt to silence the voices of Palestinians and their supporters; especially the voices of Palestinian students at our colleges and universities. You are attempting to chip away at our right of freedom of speech to oppose the genocide that's been happening in Palestine for 16 months, paid for with our tax dollars. I strongly oppose HB 937**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>RYAN DICKEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>913-602-4833</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>64111</b>
EMAIL: <b>ryandickey4@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 2:22 PM</b>
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**Vote no on using IHRA definition of anti-semitism. Including criticism of Israel will only be used to persecute high schoolers with opinions, or teachers covering history and current events. If saying "Israel is using US dollars and bombs to kill noncombatants and children", which is an objectively true statement, would be considered discrimination should this bill pass, then this bill must fail. Our children in public school in Missouri owe no allegiance to Israel, and we should not confuse them by watering down the definition of actual anti-semitic hate.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SAAD AYDI</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>18002 PINE CANYON CT.</b>		
CITY: <b>WILDWOOD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63005</b>
EMAIL: <b>saadaydi@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 8:52 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SAGI RUDNICK</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>sagirudn@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 3:26 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

Written Only Testimony in Opposition to HB 937, Provides protections against discrimination and antisemitism in public schools and public postsecondary educational institutions By Sagi Rudnick, Testifying as Individual, KCMOHouse Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development, Rep. Chris Brown, Chair February 26, 2025 Chair, Members of the Committee, ? Thank you for taking the time to review HB 937. As an Israeli-American Jewish Missourian, I have a personal stake in this issue. I was born in Jerusalem, and my family moved to the Kansas City Metro when I was 5 years old. I attended Jewish day school from then through senior year of high school. I am proud of my roots, and antisemitism is a real concern of mine. As such, I don't want to see its definition cheapened and used to defend genocidal ethnonationalism. While I trust this bill is well intentioned, I urge the committee to consider the potential harm this bill will cause. Freedom of speech and open discourse are fundamental American as well as Jewish values. They are critical in order to maintain functioning democracies. But this bill, if passed, will violate the First Amendment, because it adheres to the IHRA definition, a flawed definition of antisemitism. I would recommend the committee look at the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism instead as a definition that honors the fight against antisemitism while recognizing that antizionism is not inherently antisemitism. As an Israeli-American, I am compelled to speak out against the United States backed genocide against Palestinians that the State of Israel is engaged in. This does not make me or folks like me antisemitic. Members of the committee, I urge you to vote no on HB 937. Don't pit antisemitism against other forms of discrimination. This bill, if enacted, would be a step backward in the fight for mutual liberation of Palestinians and Israelis alike. Thank you for your attention.





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SAMI TAYEB</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>571-598-4455</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>3629 BELLERIVE BLVD</b>			
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63116</b>
EMAIL: <b>sami.tayeb.abuali@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 11:08 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

As a Palestinian American and lecturer at Washington University in St. Louis, I would like to testify against the adoption of HB937. There are many reasons this bill is problematic by adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism. First and foremost, it runs counter to Americans’ right to free speech by silencing criticism of Israeli state practices and calling such criticism antisemitic. The First Amendment of the US Constitution allows Americans to criticize any government – even our own! And we may do so without being silenced, punished, or labeled a racist. Under the First Amendment, if I want to criticize the US government for any reason, I am permitted to do so without being labeled a “racist,” “anti-white,” or “anti-Christian.” Why is the State of Missouri trying to pass a bill that will suppress Americans’ free speech and grant more protections to the State of Israel than what our own government has? As an instructor, I find the class discussions that best enhance student learning are ones where students can have free and open inquiry in the classroom and can bring up difficult topics without reprimand. This bill, if passed, will have a silencing and chilling effect on both educators and students. While HB937 states that First Amendment rights shall not be infringed upon, the IHRA definition of antisemitism along with its 11 examples of antisemitism that it outlines on its website, where 7 of the examples call criticism of Israel antisemitic, will undoubtedly infringe upon Missourians’ free speech. Secondly, the IHRA definition equates Judaism with Zionism and, therefore, assumes that all Jews are Zionists, which is not only erroneous, but also antisemitic. Many Jews in the US are not Zionists – if they were, they would be living in Israel and not in the US – and many Jews take offense at equating their religion with a racist, settler-colonial ideology, which is Zionism. Jews, more now than ever, are distancing themselves from the Israeli state due to its ongoing genocide of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. Making the generalization of Jews as Zionists, as this bill does, is antisemitic. It is relevant to note that the largest Zionist organization in the US is Christians United for Israel, which is led by Pastor John Hagee who recently stated that God “sent Hitler to help Jews reach the promised land,” among other antisemitic comments he’s made over the years. The fact is that it is millenarian dispensationalist Christians who are the main proponents of Zionism in the US and believe the creation of Israel, with all Jews being sent there to live, will bring about the resurrection of Christ and the rapture. According to this Christian belief, no Jews will be saved, and they will all be sent to Hell. This guiding ideology for the largest Zionism group in the US, which supports Zionism and the IHRA definition of antisemitism is antisemitism par excellence. Moreover, the conflation between Judaism and Zionism is not only antisemitic, but it is also inherently anti-Palestinian and Islamophobic because it prohibits any criticism of Israel’s apartheid and genocide against Palestinians. Therefore, this bill is problematic because it is simultaneously both antisemitic and Islamophobic. Thirdly, the adopted language of the IHRA definition of antisemitism is problematic because, according to a 2023 report by the European

**Legal Support Center, it originated from a program at Tel Aviv University that was funded by the Mossad, or Israeli intelligence. Therefore, by passing this bill you would be adopting directives that were created by a foreign intelligence agency and would make the entire state of Missouri comply with them. Additionally, Ken Stern, the main drafter of the IHRA definition in 2016, stated to the American Bar Association that he had concerns that the IHRA definition could be used as “a blunt instrument to label anyone an antisemite,” if the definition was adopted at the institutional level. On a final point, I would like to draw your attention that HB937 is in contradiction to President Trump’s executive order No. 14151 titled: Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing signed on January 20 of this year. With regard to this executive order, the Department of Education issued a statement that it is taking actions to comply with this order. HB937 is in clear violation of this order by promoting equity and inclusion for one group of people over all others. It is for all the above reasons that this bill is highly flawed and should not be passed. It is not good for educators, students, or for the state of Missouri.**



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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SAMUEL BRIAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>913-575-0682</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>4117 ADAMS ST. APT 314</b>			
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>KS</b>	ZIP: <b>66103</b>
EMAIL: <b>samdelosb@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>physical</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 11:15 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Members of the Committee, My name is Sam and I am a Jewish resident of Kansas City. I am compelled to speak up against HB 937 out of both a deep sense of commitment to my community and to the Palestinian community of Kansas City who I consider to be my friends, colleagues, and neighbors. Before I begin, I want to be clear: Antisemitism is a real and active force in American life and politics today. We live in a world where some of the most powerful people in America regularly pedal antisemitic conspiracy theories for profit and political gain. However, HB 937 is very much a step in the wrong direction. HB 937 would require high schools and universities across Missouri to add specific guidelines to their code of conduct around antisemitism, where antisemitism is defined according to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's Working definition of Antisemitism and its Contemporary Examples. This is both unnecessary and will have disastrous consequences for the freedom of speech of Palestinians, Jews, and their allies on campuses across the state. The IHRA Definition is widely considered a bad definition. To the point where even one of its authors has spoken out opposing its adoption in both legal and educational contexts (<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/dec/13/antisemitism-executive-order-trump-chilling-effect>). Its contemporary examples dangerously conflate criticism of the State of Israel with antisemitism. Of its 11 contemporary examples, 7 of them make reference to Israel. I want to be clear, the Jewish population of Kansas does not live in Israel. We live here. Our home is here. Any attempt to define the struggles we face with antisemitism should be rooted in what we face here. The IHRA definition conflates criticism of Israel with antisemitism in ways that are wildly disconnected from the issues that American Jews face. As an example: Under the IHRA definition, Elon Musk's recent Nazi salute would not qualify as an act of antisemitism. Despite him having a history of peddling antisemitic conspiracies. By contrast, under this definition, a Jewish student who says that "Israel is a racist state" (a statement which can be corroborated by numerous human rights groups and is a sentiment held by a not insignificant number of Jews) would be engaging in antisemitism. As ridiculous as these examples seem, these are not edge cases. These are the obvious and glaring problems with the IHRA definition. When the weight of law is put behind it, the IHRA definition morphs from being simply a not great tool into a weapon with incredibly dangerous implications for free speech. One that is often wielded against Palestinians and their allies. This bill heavily incentivizes school administrators to crack down on ANY speech or educational material which is critical of Israel because even mild criticism could open them up to legal risk. This is deeply corrosive to academic freedom and freedom of speech on campuses. Beyond the above functional issues with the bill, this bill is flatly unnecessary. Discrimination against my community is already covered under existing anti-discrimination laws in this state. We are protected from discrimination on the basis of religion. Full stop. Creating carve outs specifically for antisemitism (and with such a flawed understanding at that) only serves to separate our

**struggle from that of other marginalized communities. Our safety cannot be increased by silencing the voices of Palestinians and their allies in service to a nation half a globe away. Safety for Jews is won by creating a more equitable society, one that is free of bigotries like racism, sexism, homophobia, and ableism. HB 937 does not get us closer to that world. And it is for these reasons that I urge you to oppose this bill. Thank you, Sam Brian**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SAMUEL DOUGLAS MORGAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>morgansamueldouglas@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 11:50 PM</b>
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I am testifying in opposition to HB 937 due to the adoption of the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism. Specifically, the inclusion of language regarding criticism of Israel and its actions. I am a student at the University of Missouri in Columbia and I oppose this definition of anti-Semitism on the grounds of free speech. The IHRA uses several examples of criticism of Israel as anti-Semitic. This is in direct opposition to groups like the ACLU that rightly view this as an issue in terms of free speech and open debate. While HB 937 does include a line about how criticism of Israel is not anti-Semitic as long as it is "similar to criticism toward any other country" this is not nearly strong enough language to appropriately protect free speech on college campuses. A different definition, one that aligns more with proper dictionary definitions, that does not encompass criticism of Israel would be a significant improvement as it would work to prevent anti-Semitism without endangering protected speech and limit free and open debate in educational settings. I am thus in opposition to the passing of HB 937 in its current form and I hope the Missouri legislature instead passes a different bill that would not infringe on free speech.



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**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 937</b>		DATE: <b>2/26/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Higher Education and Workforce Development</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SASHA ZEMMEL</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>213-479-2361</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>sashazemmel@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 3:30 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**You think we don't know what this bill is for? You're silencing people! This bill is absolutely unjust and only going to make us grow louder. Shame on all of you! Do the right thing and do not pass this bill.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SCOTT ROSS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>scootles7@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 1:30 PM</b>
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The fight against antisemitism is an important one in our current moment, as white supremacy and racism are emboldened across the country and in our state. This bill, which purports to protect from antisemitism, is actually dangerous for how it conflates criticism of a nation-state (Israel) with discrimination against Jewish people. The IHRA definition of antisemitism includes criticisms of Israel's right to exist and comparing Israel to other instances of racism, segregation, apartheid, or genocide. Such opinions are not discriminatory of Jews as a people nor Judaism as a faith, but are valid political opinions that can and should be debated, voiced, and - crucially - protected as First Amendment speech. States and their policies, anywhere in the world, can and should be valid topics for criticism without being categorized as discrimination. In conflating criticism of Israel with discrimination of Jewish people, this bill and the IHRA definition of antisemitism that it seeks to enshrine in law actually commits antisemitism itself by associated Israel with Judaism, denying the existence of anti-Zionist Jews and Jewish critics of Israel. This stereotype is dangerous, and it lends credence to those who would discriminate against Jewish people because of the actions of a state on the other side of the world. Such a definition would also easily be weaponized to oppress and harm people who are critical of Israel, leveraging antidiscrimination laws to suppress legitimate free speech and discriminate against Palestinians, Jews, and others who are critical of Israel. If this bill retains the IHRA definition of antisemitism, it will do nothing to actually address antisemitism in our communities, which requires engaging with all of the Jewish community in its ideological diversity to address their safety and security as it relates to antisemitic threats here in Missouri and around the world, such as recent demonstrations by neo-Nazis and white supremacists in the St. Louis area which pose a direct and explicit threat. As a person of conscience, as someone committed to fighting discrimination in our communities, and as an educator, I urge you to vote no on this bill.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SERAPH KUNKEL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>3616 ARKANSAS AVE 1N</b>		
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63118</b>
EMAIL: <b>grace_kunkel@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 1:42 PM</b>
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The holocaust **SHOULD** be talked about and taught **WITHOUT** the premise of silencing people who are currently going under an **ACTIVE** genocide. This is blatantly Anti-Palestinian. We should be **ACCURATELY** speaking on **BOTH** the holocaust **AND** the innocent 100,000 Palestinian women, children, and men who have been brutally slaughtered by Israel by use of white phosphorus made at ICL and JDAMs made by Boeing, both located in St. Louis Missouri. Our state is **COMPLICIT** in the slaughtering of Palestinians. Don't make it worse because when history is accurately taught, our record will be remembered.





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>YARA SALAMED</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>SPEARHEADED BY:UMKC AND MIZZOU STUDENTS FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE; UMKC AND MIZZOU MUSLIM STUDENTS;PROGRESSIVE JEWS OF MIZZOU; DOZENS OF OTHER STUDENT GROUPS BUT LIMITED BY WORD COUNT</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>yourstrullyara@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>physical</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/24/2025 10:25 PM</b>	

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Throughout history, student-led movements have often been met with scrutiny, hate, and smear campaigns. However, this is nothing compared to what we have seen from the Zionist machine in the U.S., where organizations have dedicated millions of dollars toward efforts to target students advocating for the Palestinian cause. Recently, the Israeli government pledged \$150 million to boost funding for propaganda on U.S. college campuses, in coordination with pro-Israel lobbyist organizations in the U.S. As citizens protected by the First and Fourteenth Amendment, as well as students looking out for their own safety, we have the right to criticize Zionism just like any other political ideology. We have already seen the dangerous consequences of conflating anti-Zionism and antisemitism. Implementing this dangerous definition into law is harmful for Palestinian and Jewish students by reducing the definition of antisemitism to criticism of Israel, instead of focusing on true antisemitic rhetoric. At Mizzou (the largest MO state university) and the University of Missouri at Kansas City (the most diverse university in MO), for example, we have active student organizations such as Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) that have collectively worked alongside other student comrades for education and advocacy purposes against the killing, mass displacement, and erasure experiences of Palestinians and Palestine conducted by Israel. Part of our work as united student groups involves educating our peers, professors, faculty, and administration on the distinction between Zionism and antisemitism. We have worked with one another to ensure that Jewish people are not blamed and not targeted for Israel's actions—we've made it clear through education workshops, pamphlets and necessary discussions on our campus spaces that the criticism of Israel's action is the critique of a political movement called Zionism and the devastating impact of this political movement on Palestinians is not to be used as a hatred or phobia for Jewish people. This bill directly violates the First Amendment free speech and free political expression rights of Palestinian students, Jewish students, Muslim students and anyone opposed to the 77-year occupation, ethnic cleansing, and land theft of Palestinians by Israel. If passed, our student organizations will be at high risk of being targeted, investigated, and punished when disagreements with other people about Israel's actions arise. Across the nation, Palestinian students, professors, and their allies have been doxxed for simply voicing that they do not agree with Israel's actions against Palestinians. Students have lost career and academic opportunities because of these doxxing campaigns led by pro-Israel, Zionist groups. At Mizzou, there is a strong presence of pro-Israel Zionist groups like Hillel. These pro-Israel groups have repeatedly tried to shut our pro-Palestine student organizations down because of our criticism of Israel's actions and support for Palestinian rights. At UMKC, active student participants have voiced that they do not

register under Roogroups (the university student organization page) out of fear of pro-Israel students singling them out, reporting them, and potentially losing out on future academic and career opportunities. Palestinian students who have lived in and/or have family, friends and community in occupied Palestine have been called antisemitic by pro-Israel students or faculty when sharing their lived experiences as victims of Israel's violence. This legislation will embolden the already existing wrongful targeting of Palestinians, Palestinian supporters, and/or Muslims in our academic spaces. If passed, we expect heightened targeting and investigation for wrongful accusations of antisemitism which will inevitably lead to losing our student organization funds and losing student organization status by our universities altogether. Upon the anticipated censorship and/or termination, the necessary conversations, education, and advocacy work that academic institutions were historically established to cultivate will be lost altogether when it comes to topics such as Palestine. Even without this dangerous definition being legislated as law, Palestinian students, student advocates, and Muslim students are exposed to many dangers on campus spaces. Students wearing kuffiyehs are accused of being antisemitic, placing a target on their backs for hate crimes. In 2023, three university students wearing kuffiyehs were shot while walking near the University of Vermont, leaving one student paralyzed. Simply being Palestinian is considered anti-Zionist in today's political landscape, so officially conflating anti-Zionism with antisemitism puts our lives in even more jeopardy than ever before. The State has an obligation to keep all citizens and their students safe, encompassing Palestinian, Palestine supporting, Muslim, and non-Palestinian alike. We want to be safe on our academic spaces to exercise our free speech and free political expression without state sanctioned targeting and endangerment by virtue of our identities or political support. In fact, the Fourteenth Amendment Equal Protection Clause ensures that people of all racial identities and national origins - implying Palestinian and Muslim included- must be protected by the State unless the State can prove there is some sort of narrow and compelling reason as to why the particular group is being singled out and targeted. There is no compelling reason for the State of Missouri to place a target on Palestinian, Palestinian supporting, and Muslim students for political disagreements as this bill suggests. Therefore, we are entitled to the same protections afforded to every other group in this State, politically popular or not. To get to the primary goal of this bill, it simply isn't about thoughts on Palestine or Israel and Zionism, rather this bill asks whether the Constitution and its Amendments (particularly the First and Fourteenth Amendment) will be upheld or if the Constitution will be undermined altogether due to disagreements on the Middle East. The outcome of this bill will determine which has been decided and its impact will be felt all across Missouri. We, as students, will continue to hope that our State Representatives will make the decision to uphold our Constitution and protect us as Palestinian, Palestinian supporting, and Muslim students.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>YOUSSEF ABOUELELA</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-742-9339</b>	
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ADDRESS: <b>4727 JARBOE ST. APT. 106</b>			
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I am writing in opposition to this bill because the text deceptively did not include the entire IHRA working definition of antisemitism. The IHRA working definition of antisemitism has been widely criticized for conflating antisemitism and antizionism. Here is one article that discusses that: <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2020/nov/29/palestinian-rights-and-the-ihra-definition-of-antisemitism> There are many more articles like this our representatives should read about before making a decision on this bill. The state of Israel has been determined under international law to be an occupying power many years, and has more recently been found guilty of genocide by the international court of justice. Silencing criticism against this not only perpetuates the genocide, but also exacerbates antisemitism. By conflating Judaism and Zionism, and positing that criticism of the racist endeavors of the state of Israel is antisemitic, the IHRA definition associates Judaism with a genocide and ethnic cleansing of the state of Palestine. In this way, this bill could potentially exacerbate antisemitism. By denying the racist endeavors of Israel and deeming such a claim antisemitic, this bill allows a genocide to continue. It silences voices of young people fighting for a better world. It is an attack on free speech and academic freedom. It puts both Palestinian and Jewish students at risk. Signing this bill would be to sign for complicity in a genocide.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ALESSANDRO MATTINA</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-566-1022</b>
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		ZIP: <b>63026</b>
EMAIL: <b>Alessandro.mattina@slu.edu</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>physical</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2025 1:06 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>NIKOLAY REMIZOV</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-665-4343</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>MSC #8229 20N GRAND BLVD ST.LOUIS, MO 63103</b>		
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63103</b>
EMAIL: <b>Nikolajn971@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>physical</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/25/2025 12:54 PM</b>
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