

March 16, 2018

Mr. Chairman, Representatives of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to speak today.

I address you today as a staunch supporter of free speech and an unwavering supporter of anti-discrimination policy. I have spoken previously about the important economic relationship between Kansas and Israel. According to the Kansas Department of Commerce, Israel is a strong trade partner with Kansas. In 2016, Kansas exported \$56,681,800 in total commodities, while importing \$83,650,853. I been told by Department of Agriculture staff that our export numbers have been dropping recently. There is concern about protecting this valuable relationship.

I support this amended bill that alters our law to protect free speech, an important American value and that works to also protect our relationship with Israeli business and innovation resources.

The BDS movement is attempting to achieve illegal discrimination against Israelis and ultimately Jews based on nationality. This is discrimination and this is wrong.

Ultimately, BDS is a movement whose core principal is the destruction of the only Jewish state on earth. Those who believe in peace must understand that efforts like this to undermine Israel's legitimacy make that goal harder to achieve.

The BDS movement is discrimination that singles out the Jewish state while ignoring any other perceived injustices. Leaders of the Democratic Party and the Republican Party have spoken out against the

discriminatory BDS movement. They have agreed that this serves only to divide us and keep the parties in Israel further from peace than ever.

I support the view that it is important to make these economic decisions free of discrimination. Companies practicing such discrimination do not stand for the values of Kansans or Americans.

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