

Reverend Cerelia Martinez-Moylan

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Bill Number: HB 2299

Position: Opponent

Date of Hearing: Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 1:30 PM

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Cerelia Martinez-Moylan, and I have several concerns regarding HB 2299. My first concern is that the definition of anti-Semitism as stated in the bill is not a legally binding definition, per the IHRA themselves. I am also concerned with the Bill's equation of Jewish people and the Israeli state. I am a firm supporter of those in the Jewish faith, and have many friends and some family in the Jewish community. Jewish people should be protected. However, the government of Israel is not a person or protected class in itself. Americans should be allowed to exercise their freedom of speech regarding the state of Israel. It is important to me that all Americans are safe and protected, but I believe this Bill to be misguided in its execution.

Another concern I have is the section specifically regarding masks. The vague definitions leave too much room for misuse, especially with the rise of anti-masking sentiment. Respiratory illness is becoming an ever growing issue that affects the most vulnerable of our communities, and I worry this stipulation may harm everyday people trying to keep themselves and their families healthy as they go about their business. We know from history laws are not always enforced fairly and it is our duty to help reduce that risk wherever we can, for the good of all our citizens.

It is for these reasons I believe this Bill should go no further. I appreciate the Authors' intent to protect the Jewish community in Kansas, however, I do not believe HB 2299 is the appropriate way to accomplish this. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Rev. Cerelia Martinez-Moylan

Reverend Cerelia Martinez-Moylan
02/09/2025