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Contact:

Stefanie Clarke

303.941.4844

stopantisemitismco@gmail.com

**JEWISH COMMUNITY TURNS OUT IN FORCE
TO DEFEAT REP. EPP'S ISRAEL DIVESTMENT BILL**
*State House Finance Committee Defeats Bill by 10 to 1
After Six Hours of Testimony*

Denver, CO -- After six hours of testimony with more than 60 members of the Jewish community, business, faith, and organizational leaders testifying in opposition to [HB 1169](#), Rep. Elisabeth Epps's bill was defeated in the House Finance Committee by a vote of 10 to 1. The only member to vote in favor of the bill was Rep. Lorena Garcia.

HB 1169 would have economically penalized Israel by repealing a [2016 bipartisan law that requires the Public Employees Retirement Association \(PERA\) to divest from companies with economic prohibitions against Israel](#).

"As we experienced throughout the long night, debate on this bill had nothing to do with fiscal policy or PERA. It only served to further divide Coloradans and create a platform for hate to spread," said **Dawn Reinfeld, co-founder of Stop Antisemitism Colorado**. "This bill was about the BDS movement, which seeks to delegitimize the state of Israel and turn the world against it. So often, American Jews are held responsible for the actions of the state of Israel. **This is a form of antisemitism**. The actions of the BDS movement and its supporters have at every turn tried to intimidate American Jews under the guise of social justice."

Testimony from the proponents ranged from complete ignorance to blatant antisemitism, underscoring the very problem the Jewish community has been facing since October 7.

Throughout the night, Jews were accused of spouting “tired and bereaved fallacies,” using “crocodile tears to try and distract the members”, and repeated claims that Jews are “weaponizing antisemitism.”

“There is an ignorance that has turned into something very insidious in our society. Last night showed that the Jewish community is not going to sit on the sidelines or be silenced. We refuse to let others tell Jews what is or isn’t antisemitism. We refuse to let them make our spaces smaller and less safe. And we refuse to let our political discourse get hijacked by those with an antisemitic agenda under the guise of economic or any other policy,” said **Stefanie Clarke, co-founder of Stop Antisemitism Colorado**. “We are grateful for the overwhelming support from the committee and for seeing this bill for exactly what it was.”

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Stop Antisemitism Colorado is a Colorado-based organization dedicated to combating the egregious rise in antisemitism in our current political discourse. We aim to identify and call out antisemitic language and incidents, foster understanding and awareness of its impact on the Jewish community, advocate for responsible media representation, cultivate alliances, and actively oppose legislation that poses harm to the Jewish community. Through education and advocacy, we strive to empower individuals to recognize and combat Jewish hate and biases in all forms.