

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2023
COMMITTEE STATEMENT (CORRECTED)
LB343

Hearing Date: Friday February 10, 2023
Committee On: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Introducer: Slama
One Liner: Prohibit public contracts with companies that boycott Israel

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye:	5	Senators Aguilar, Brewer, Halloran, Lowe, Sanders
Nay:	3	Senators Conrad, Hunt, Raybould
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:		

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Julie Slama
John Myers
Jason Jackson
Alice Myers
Collin Bonnie
Gary Javitch
Sharon Brodkey

Jake Bennett
Bertel "Gene" Alpin

Opponents:

Alexzia Plummer
Sara Pahl-Ramirez
Cynthia Hruby
Keith Nelson
Doug Paterson
Rhonda Brubacher
Dwight Williams
Robert Ramalex
Kevin Bushnell

Sandra Hanna
Sharon Conlon
Daniel Gutman

Representing:

Introducer
Self
Department of Administrative Services (DAS)
Self
Self
Jewish Federation of Omaha
Jewish Community Relations Council Jewish Federation of Omaha
Israeli-American Coalition for Action
Self

Representing:

Self
Self
Palestinian Rights Task Force of Nebraskan for Peace
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Palestinian Rights Task Force (NF Peace)
Self
New Life Presbyterian Church
Self
Social Justice and Peacemaking Committee of the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley Presbyterian Church (USA)
Nebraskans for Peace: Palestinians Rights Task Force
Nebraskans for Peace.
ACLU Nebraska

Lacy Smith*

Self

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Summary:

Legislative Bill 343 would require a certification in public contracts that contractors do not boycott Israel and will not do so for the term of the contract. Public entities would be prohibited from entering into a contract if that certification by the private provider is not included.

Any contract entered into in violation of the Act would be void as against public policy. The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) would be granted discretion to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the Act. The Act includes definitions for "boycott," "company," and "public entity," and provides that a statement by a company that the company is boycotting Israel would be considered as evidence that the company is boycotting Israel. The provisions of this bill would not apply to contracts with a value of less than one hundred thousand dollars, or to companies with fewer than ten employees.

The bill includes a severability clause.

Tom Brewer, Chairperson