Chip Roy Responds to "Antisemitism Awareness Act of 2023"

Roy said the House was unable to debate or amend the bill as it was pushed through.

What is it about These Words that the public is being led to believe – "Antisemitic" & "Antisemitism" – Think Again!

Excerpt below of Rep. Chip Roy speaking on the floor of the House of Representatives. Link **HERE** for X "formerly Twitter" post

> *But here's the thing, yet again today on the floor of the House of Representatives, we had another show vote to make people feel good about themselves by passing a bill that says Anti-Semitism in the title.*
>
> *That's what happened, and it was put on the floor by Republican leadership, and it was put on the floor by Republican leadership despite knowing that it was pulled from going through committee. We didn't have a chance to amend it. We didn't have a chance to discuss it, to debate it. We didn't have a hearing on it. It was jammed through to take advantage of this political moment while all of these horrific things are going around the country, Republican leadership wanted to score political points so they moved through legislation without the kind of deliberation debate that is supposed to be carried out by the people in this*

chamber.

As a result, today a significant number of my Republican colleagues, including myself, voted no. As a result, we will be accused of, I don't know, being for Anti-Semitic behavior, being accused by our friends and allies of not wanting to support Israel, supporting our Jewish American colleagues and friends, constituents, fellow Americans.

Nothing could be further from the truth, but that's what will happen, and it will happen because we dare to stand up and say we don't believe in thought police. We don't believe that a bill should be brought to the floor of the United States House of Representatives having not gone through committee that has a reference in it to international organizations' definitions, literally in the statute, and then taking that international organizations' definition, and then literally in the statute representing and referencing the examples of Anti-Semitic behavior.

"The ability of the government to police thought, to police speech…"

"You are empowering that which should never be empowered!"

□□□ *pic.twitter.com/SmDEj9B0gI*

— Rep. Chip Roy Press Office (@RepChipRoy) May 1, 2024

Semitic (adj.)

1797, denoting the major language group that includes Hebrew, Arabic, Aramaic, Assyrian, etc., distinguished by triliteral verbal roots and vowel inflection; 1826 as "of or pertaining to Semites," from Medieval Latin Semiticus (source of Spanish

semitico, French semitique, German semitisch), from Semita (see Semite).

As a noun, as the name of a linguistic family, from 1813. In non-linguistic use, it is perhaps directly from German semitisch. In recent use often with the specific sense "Jewish," but not historically so delimited.

Semite (n.)

1847, "a Jew, Arab, Assyrian, or Aramaean" (an apparently isolated use from 1797 refers to the Semitic language group), back-formation from Semitic or else from French Sémite (1845), from Modern Latin Semita, from Late Latin Sem, Greek Sēm "Shem," one of the three sons of Noah (Genesis x.21-30), regarded as the ancestor of the Semites in Bible-based anthropology, from Hebrew Shem. In this modern sense it is said to have been introduced by German historian August Schlözer in 1781.

Right-wing critics slam antisemitism bill passed by House

> *This evening, I will vote AGAINST the ridiculous hate speech bill called the "Antisemitism Awareness Act."*
>
> *Antisemitism is wrong, but this legislation is written without regard for the Constitution, common sense, or even the common understanding of the meaning of words. The… pic.twitter.com/HYg2LJDLAI*
>
> *— Rep. Matt Gaetz (@RepMattGaetz) May 1, 2024*

Because the bill is so imprecise in its language, the threat

to Freedom of Speech could not be greater. “Antisemitism” is not defined in the bill. What is or is not “antisemitism” is wholly based on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition. **That is a very expansive definition, whose rigorous application could outlaw publicly expressing Christian dogma, public readings of certain Bible verses, and any public criticism of Israel, a foreign nation receiving billions of tax payer dollars.**

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6090

To provide for the consideration of a definition of antisemitism set forth by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance for the enforcement of Federal antidiscrimination laws concerning education programs or activities, and for other purposes.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act, the term "definition of antisemitism"—

(1) means the definition of antisemitism adopted on May 26, 2016, by the IHRA, of which the United States is a member, which definition has been adopted by the Department of State; and

(2) includes the "[c]ontemporary examples of antisemitism" identified in the IHRA definition.

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE

IHRA definition of antisemitism includes:

- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.

Matthew 27:24–25

24 When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. 25 Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.

1 Thessalonians 2:14-15

14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews: 15 Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men

King James Version - Bible