STAND UP TO HATE, BIGOTRY AND DISCRIMINATION AND ENSURE A WELCOMING COMMONWEALTH FOR ALL

HD779/SD922: AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION IN STATE CONTRACTS

Sponsored by Senator Cynthia Creem (D-Newton) and Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester) & Representative Paul McMurtry (D-Dedham) and Steve Howitt (R-Seekonk)

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Prevent Taxpayer Funds from Subsidizing Discrimination

➡ This bipartisan bill harnesses the economic influence of our state to strengthen existing anti-discrimination laws and ensure that the state does not unwittingly use tax payer funds to subsidize discrimination.

➡ The bill would require anyone applying for a state contract to certify that they are in compliance with Massachusetts laws prohibiting discrimination and that they will not discriminate against another in the business context based on the targeted individual's race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, gender identity or sexual orientation.

➡ This bill would extend to the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions ("BDS") movement against Israel and would prevent the state from awarding contracts to those who boycott Israeli businesses and goods manufactured in Israel solely on the basis of national origin.

➡ This bill does not infringe on the constitutionally protected right to engage in free speech and does not impact the right to peacefully protest or criticize a foreign state.

➡ When acting as a market participant, the state is well within its rights to choose trading partners that act in accordance with Massachusetts law and policies including those prohibiting unfair targeting or discrimination of any kind. In context of the BDS movement, where both state and federal policy makers have specifically rejected campaigns to isolate, delegitimize and economically destroy Israel, targeting innocent Israeli business owners simply based on national origin is best looked at as a form of discrimination that should not be supported by the state.