

HJ 2
Supporting a Long-Term Ceasefire in Israel and Palestine
House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee
March 4, 2024

SUPPORT

Dear Chair Healey, Vice Chair Holmes, and members of the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee,

My name is Edgar Garcia. I live at 822 Evesham Ave, Baltimore, MD 21212. I am writing in strong support of HJ 2 sponsored by Delegate Acevero, which calls for an immediate, long-term ceasefire in Israel and Palestine and the delivery of adequate humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people. Since October 7, over 30,000 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli government, mostly women and children. In addition to the astronomical number of civilian deaths, the ongoing violence, destruction of homes, infrastructure, and agricultural lands, and blockades in Gaza have led to millions of people being displaced, mass starvation, lack of access to potable water, and an ecological crisis.

The US government continues to provide billions of dollars in funding and weapons to the Israeli government to carry out this genocide. **Therefore it is imperative that elected officials at all levels of government condemn the genocide and go on the record in support of an immediate, long-term ceasefire.**

Last month, South Africa embarked on a mission to prosecute Israel at the International Court of Justice in the Hague for its genocidal war against the Palestinian people in Gaza. As you know, South Africa was subjected to atrocious human rights abuses for decades under an apartheid regime backed by the United States. The support of apartheid in South Africa is a stain on the history of the US. Yet history is repeating itself.

It is time for the violence to end and it is beyond time for elected officials to condemn our government for supporting the Israeli apartheid regime and the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people.

In conclusion, we urge a favorable report for HJ 2. Thank you for your time.