

**Testimony Supporting HJ002:  
Supporting a Long-Term Ceasefire in Israel and Palestine  
House Rules Committee  
March 4, 2024**

My name is Olivia Delaplaine, I am a district 20 constituent living in Takoma Park, Maryland, and I am writing to support HJ002: Supporting a long-term ceasefire in Israel and Palestine.

We need the Maryland General Assembly's support of a resolution in support of a ceasefire to lend our voices to stop the bloodshed now. Cities around the country including Durham, San Francisco, and Chicago have passed resolutions calling for a ceasefire, and Maryland can and should join suit. Our congressional delegation listens to the voices of state legislators, and with swift action in support of this resolution, we could positively influence the discussions in Congress and lend support for a ceasefire now.

The ICJ has ordered Israel to take immediate action to prevent a genocide in Gaza. The U.S., as a funder of weapons and military aid to the IDF, must act urgently to prevent further bloodshed and loss of life and prevent a full-on genocide from continuing. As the resolution mentions, the crisis is dire, thousands have been killed, and thousands more are on the brink of starvation. I have a dear Palestinian friend, neighbor, and colleague who has lost his family in Gaza, and I have another Jewish Israeli friend and colleague who has lost friends as well. I mourn for both of them as much as I mourn for all who live in the region who have lost loved ones. I have been searching for ways to channel the deep sadness and rage I feel into action, which is why in both my day job and in my volunteer capacity I have devoted significant amounts of time advocating for a ceasefire and encouraging all levels of government to do so.

The members of the Maryland General Assembly hold power and influence in our state--on how our money gets spent, on which voices and peoples livelihoods are prioritized, and on what issues get brought up at the federal level and within their respective party leadership, as well. Please use your power to support this resolution calling for a ceasefire in Israel and Palestine. I urge a favorable report.

Signed,

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