

My name is Karen Caplan and I live in District 18. I am writing to express the strongest possible support for HJ0002, the Ceasefire Resolution. I think it's important to note that I am a Jewish Marylander, because I don't want this committee to believe for one moment that Jewish Marylanders, as a bloc, do not support this resolution. Many of us do; indeed many of us have been calling for a ceasefire since soon after October 7.

I am also a professional historian, and while I am not a historian of the Middle East, I am a scholar of another part of the world—Latin America—that has a long and complicated history of colonialism and violence. This knowledge certainly informs my opinions about the history that has played out over the past century in Israel/Palestine. I am not a Zionist, and I do not support Israel. But to be absolutely clear, I think we have moved past a point where that really matters. Surely we can all agree that what people in Gaza and increasingly in the West Bank are suffering through is, quite simply, wrong. And if something is wrong, we should do what we can to stop it.

Every voice matters, and this body has an opportunity to join an ever-growing chorus of that is pushing back against an ahistorical, damaging, and frankly immoral narrative in which the actions of the state of Israel cannot be criticized, and in which we must accept whatever it does.

I urge you to return a favorable report on HJ0002.