

February 29, 2024

## Supporting a Long-Term Ceasefire in Israel and Palestine (HJ2)

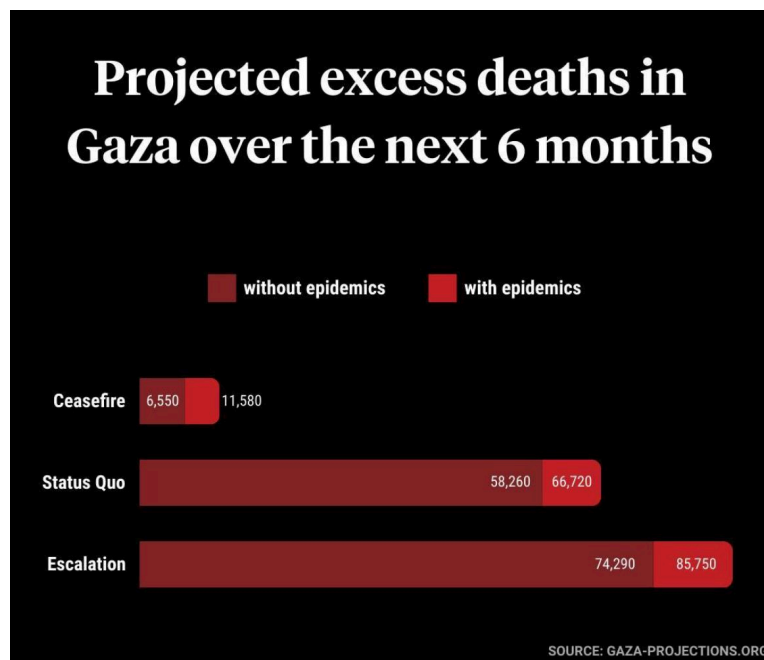
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Healey and Members of the Rules and Executive Nominations Committee,

My name is Taylor Smith-Hams and I'm a Baltimore City resident in Maryland's 43rd district. I **strongly urge the committee to issue a favorable report on HJ2.**

Since Hamas' brutal attack on October 7th, Israeli forces have killed over 30,000 Palestinians, primarily using weapons paid for and supplied by American taxpayers. Israel would be unable to continue its relentless siege on Gaza without our government's unconditional support. Therefore, American politicians like yourselves have a particular duty to speak out and take action to stop the bloodshed.

A [recent study](#) by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health outlines just how many lives a ceasefire could save. Without epidemics, a ceasefire is estimated to result in 6,550 excess deaths over the next six months, while under the status quo, over 58,000 excess deaths would occur and over 74,000 more people will die under an escalation such as an invasion of Rafah. These numbers increase significantly in the case of epidemics. **In short, a ceasefire is projected to save between 67,740 and 74,170 lives.**



You have a responsibility, both as elected officials and as people of conscience, to speak out strongly against this unfolding genocide and to use your platforms to call for an immediate ceasefire. Please, issue a favorable report on HJ2. Be on the right side of history.

Sincerely,

Taylor Smith-Hams