

Sandra Roper

Regarding the Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

March 4, 2024

My name is Sandra Roper and I am a testifying in favor of House Joint Resolution 2 (HJ0002). As the House Joint Resolution states, over 23,000 Palestinians and over 1,200 Israelis have been killed between October 7, 2023 and January 10, 2024. In the most report from Al Jazeera, the number of Palestinians killed has risen to over 30,000 with more than 70,000 injured. The only way forward begins with an immediate, long-term ceasefire, the return of all hostages, and the delivery of adequate humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people.

In a statement from January 15th, the Secretary General of the United Nations said that “Nowhere and no one is safe,” in regards to the situation in Gaza, urging that “We cannot allow what has been happening in Gaza to continue.” By voting in favor of this resolution, this committee would be taking the necessary steps to answer that call to not let what is happening in Gaza continue.

As a Lutheran, my faith calls me to speak against the injustice and cruelty that the Palestinian people are facing. As a human being, I am obligated to speak out against the suffering. As a Marylander, I am testifying in favor of House Joint Resolution 2.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.