

To: Maryland General Assembly

From: Cheryl Barnds, 8001 Maple Ave, Takoma Park MD 20912

Re: Testimony In FAVOR (FAV) of Maryland state-wide ceasefire bill: HJ0002 – Supporting a Long-Term Ceasefire in Israel and Palestine.

I write to you in full support of HJ0002, *the General Assembly of Maryland conveys to Maryland's Congressional Delegation its support for an immediate, long-term ceasefire in Israel and occupied Palestine, the return of all hostages, and delivery of adequate humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people.*

As a long-time voting resident of Maryland and a Jew from a long line of Orthodox Rabiis, with family in Israel, I say to you: Zionism is not Judaism, and genocide is not security.

As we did for South Africa, it is time now to awake from the daze of apartheid misinformation and special-interest control, and move boldly in the direction of enforcing international laws, in line with Marylander values. Most Marylanders and most Americans want an immediate lasting ceasefire in Gaza. Our legislation urgently needs to catch up with our people.

Given the current, dire, worsening situation HJ0002 is a necessary but minimal step. Please pass it immediately. Failure to do so is an endorsement of brutal genocide of innocent people – mostly children and women.

Thank you.