

My name is Graciela Aponte-Diaz. I am writing in strong support of HJ0002, **Supporting a Long-Term Ceasefire in Israel and Palestine.**

“It is only with peace that we will achieve security.”

There are so many of us that are heartbroken by the Hamas attack on Oct 7th and the catastrophic loss of lives in Palestine that followed.

We are watching and feeling the pain of both Palestinian and Israeli people, and we don't want to just stand by.

But many have been scared into silence. Will what we say be labeled as “antisemitic?” Will what we say be seen as anti-Palestinian?

I think I speak for many when I say

- We don't want innocent lives taken away
- We don't want children to be killed
- And we don't want violence against Jewish or Arab Americans or students

Thank you Delegate Acevero for introducing this.