I am a Maryland resident, I am Jewish, I have a child in Montgomery County schools, and I wholeheartedly **support HJ0002 "Supporting a Long-Term Ceasefire in Israel and Palestine**."

Governments across America have taken a stand on the right side of history to recognize Palestinian humanity and support a ceasefire. The U.S. government funds and is providing weapons to Israel, which makes us complicit in the ongoing genocide of Palestinians. It is our duty as human beings, and especially as state government bodies, to take a stand.

This is no different than resolutions the Maryland General Assembly has already passed in support of Ukraine after Russia's invasion.

In addition, teachers and students in Montgomery County schools (MCPS) have been put on administrative leave and/or bullied by administrators for their pro-Palestine beliefs. Over 1,000 MCPS alumni, parents, current students and educators have signed a petition to demand politicians at all levels of government support a ceasefire.

There are Palestinian students, parents and community members in your district, and the alarming anti-Palestinian acts of violence and racism we've seen across the country mean you have a duty to protect your Palestinian constituents and their families in Palestine.

Thank you,

Elissa Laitin 1723 Cody Drive Silver Spring, MD 20902