

Written Testimony of Deepa Iyer
Favorable Testimony for HJ0002, "Supporting a Long-Term Ceasefire in Israel and Palestine."

February 29, 2024

As a resident of Silver Spring, Maryland, a parent, and a member of Maryland Parents for Local and Global Justice, I strongly urge the Maryland General Assembly to pass the ceasefire resolution, HJ0002 introduced by Delegate Acevero titled "Supporting a Long-Term Ceasefire in Israel and Palestine."

70 municipalities around the country have passed ceasefire resolutions around the country. It is time for the state of Maryland to join them.

The [death toll](#) in Gaza has crossed the 30,000 mark. On February 29th, more than 200 days after the genocide began, Israeli soldiers killed 112 Palestinians waiting in a food line. We cannot close our eyes, stay neutral, or be silent in the wake of these atrocities. In fact, over the past few months, Marylanders of diverse backgrounds and faiths have been organizing peaceful protests, testifying at school board meetings, and raising their voices in the media about the need for a ceasefire to stop the genocide, forced starvation, and displacement in Gaza at the hands of the Israeli government.

It is vital that state legislators heed the will of people in the state of Maryland to pass HJ0002, call for an immediate ceasefire, and join people of conscience here at home and around the world.