

My name is Fiorella Guevara. I am in favor House Joint Resolution #2. There must be an immediate permanent ceasefire in Gaza. I've worked in education my whole career and so I typically try to see this from a young person's point of view. And I'm disgusted by the example that we are setting as the adults in power. What are we imparting to the next generation? That it's acceptable to meet violence with more enduring and extreme violence? That as a bystander, we can't be an upstander for the people suffering through trauma, hunger, immense pain and oppression? That we are willingly handing over weapons to inflict even more pain? Don't we want our young people to understand that they have power to stop extreme acts of violence and not aid in continuing them? When did we cross the threshold from "violence doesn't solve problems" to "eye for an eye" to "annihilation of a people based on their group identity" and blanket indiscriminate bombing and killing of over 30,000 Palestinians? That's not the Maryland that I grew up in and those are not the values that I want to leave with our young people. We must advocate for the conditions that would allow for Palestine and Israel to start a path towards peace, reconciliation and freedom for the Palestinian people. This must IMMEDIATELY start with a permanent ceasefire and an intense humanitarian aid plan that will quickly respond to the food and medical needs of all the people of Gaza. What is currently getting in is not enough to stop millions of people from starvation. Due to our involvement as Americans in this region since the inception of Israel, we must face our own faults in creating this current situation and take steps to ATONE. We are not saviors sweeping in to end this genocide, but rather, a nation, complicit from the start, that understands our own wrongdoings and is humbly ready to work with people on the ground to remedy this massive humanitarian crisis. Palestinian and Israeli people want this nightmare to end. I want this nightmare to end. You should want this nightmare to end and if you don't, we as the voters, must question your leadership and motives behind your choice to continue violence. Be a true Marylander and vote in favor of House Joint Resolution #2.