

Testimony on HB1124  
Civil Actions - Nonprofit Organizations - Unauthorized Support of Israeli Settlement Activity  
(Not on Our Dime Act)

FAVORABLE

Judiciary Committee  
Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Dear Chairman Clippinger, Vice Chairwoman Bartlett, and Members:

Longstanding US foreign policy views Israel's illegal settlement activity on lands captured in the 1967 Six Day War as an obstacle to creating a lasting peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians. Yet for years US nonprofits have funneled hundreds of millions of dollars to sustain and expand the illegal settlements. This not only undermines US policy, but violates international and US law. (See article in [Just Security](#).)

These nonprofit organizations maintain 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, which allows them, and their donors, to enjoy huge tax breaks. They are abusing the United States' nonprofit system and increasing the tax burden on the general public in the process. But more importantly, they are driving the Israeli settler movement, and causing harm, suffering and injustice.

The settler movement pursues the goal of "land reclamation," a euphemism for the confiscation of Palestinian property through violent expulsion, demolition, and threats, and the creation of Israeli-only settlements on Palestinian land. As this land is colonized, water is often diverted from Palestinian communities, and Israeli-only bypass roads are constructed, with aggressively-policed checkpoints, making it difficult for farmers, businesses, communities, and families to meet their basic needs.

The General Assembly cannot make the IRS do its job, but it can prevent the abuse of our state tax system by cracking down on organizations whose dollars are contributing to human rights violations, including donations that support the Israeli settler movement.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Sincerely,  
Jacqueline MacMillan and Ann Gordon  
3811 Canterbury Road  
Baltimore, MD 21218