

HB1124

(FAV) (Support)

As a Maryland resident, practicing physician, former Eagle Scout (and father of an Eagle Scout) who advocates for human rights, I strongly urge support for **HB1124 “Not on Our Dime Act,”** to prohibit nonprofit organizations from aiding and abetting settlement activity by the government and citizens of Israel and furthermore to remove any nonprofit organization from the Registry of Charitable Solicitation that is found to support such activity.

I am a Presbyterian and I collaborate with Jewish, Christian, and Muslim allies in the name of peace and social justice. I have been to the West Bank and Israel multiple times as a medical volunteer, and I am strongly against the ongoing illegal settlement activity and violence against Palestinians perpetrated by the government and citizens of Israel.

Maryland is the Free State, and as Marylanders we should stand in strong opposition to, and NOT subsidize, Israeli settler violence on the Israeli occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Non-profit status granted by the State of Maryland is supposed to promote organizations that do good in the world. Organizations that support ethnic cleansing, home demolition, and destruction of Palestinian homes and villages are undermining prospects for peace and justice in the Middle East.

It is my strong belief that Maryland non-profit organizations that fund illegal Israeli settlements (in violation of US and international law!) should NOT receive an exemption from paying Maryland's taxes and should not be allowed to operate with blatant disregard for the Geneva Conventions.

I respectfully urge you to stand against illegal Israeli settlements and settler violence against Palestinians. In the strongest possible terms, **I urge support of House Bill HB1124.**

Thank you for your consideration,
Sincerely,

William F. Simonds, MD
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