

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 5

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By: **Senator Benson**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2024

Assigned to: Rules

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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Supporting a Long-Term Ceasefire in Israel and Palestine**

3 FOR the purpose of stating that the General Assembly of Maryland conveys to Maryland's  
4 Congressional Delegation its support for an immediate, long-term ceasefire in Israel  
5 and occupied Palestine, the return of all hostages, and delivery of adequate  
6 humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people; and generally relating to support for a  
7 ceasefire in Israel and Palestine.

8 WHEREAS, All human life is precious, and the targeting of civilians, no matter their  
9 faith or ethnicity, is a violation of international humanitarian law; and

10 WHEREAS, Between October 7, 2023, and January 10, 2024, armed violence claimed  
11 the lives of over 23,000 Palestinians (more than 10,000 of whom are children) and over  
12 1,200 Israelis, tens of thousands more have been wounded, and the death toll has included  
13 Americans; and

14 WHEREAS, As of November 1, 2023, the Israeli military admitted to having dropped  
15 10,000 bombs on Gaza, which averages 72 bombs for every square mile of Gaza, and The  
16 Wall Street Journal reported at least 45 percent of housing units being destroyed or  
17 damaged; and

18 WHEREAS, Hundreds of thousands of lives are at imminent risk without an  
19 immediate, long-term ceasefire, restoration of basic necessities, and delivery of adequate  
20 humanitarian aid without delay to the Palestinian people; and

21 WHEREAS, The United States government and our elected leaders hold immense  
22 diplomatic power to save Israeli and Palestinian lives; and

23 WHEREAS, The majority of the world and the majority of Americans support an  
24 immediate, long-term ceasefire in Israel and occupied Palestine, and millions of people  
25 worldwide, including thousands of people in Maryland, have joined in peaceful protests  
26 since October 7 to amplify this call; and



1           WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland has the ability to influence  
2 Maryland’s federal delegation to call for an immediate, long–term ceasefire to stop the  
3 violence, the safe return of all hostages, and the delivery of adequate humanitarian aid to  
4 the Palestinian people without delay in order to prevent the loss of hundreds of thousands  
5 more lives; and

6           WHEREAS, Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and anti–Palestinian/anti–Arab bigotry  
7 have risen significantly in Maryland, across the United States, and around the world in the  
8 past 4 months, with direct impacts on our local communities – from synagogues and  
9 mosques to schools, homes, offices, and places where communities gather, as well as at  
10 protests and rallies; and

11           WHEREAS, All of these forms of bigotry, violence, and oppression serve to divide our  
12 communities and weaken our efforts to achieve collective safety, justice, and true  
13 multi–ethnic, multiracial democracy here and everywhere; now, therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General  
15 Assembly of Maryland condemns violations of international law, including both the attack  
16 on October 7, 2023, by Hamas, and the Israeli military’s response on the 2.3 million  
17 Palestinian people living in Gaza (nearly half of whom are children) since then; and be it  
18 further

19           RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of Maryland conveys to Maryland’s  
20 Congressional Delegation its support for an immediate, long–term ceasefire in Israel and  
21 occupied Palestine, the return of all hostages, and delivery of adequate humanitarian aid  
22 to the Palestinian people; and be it further

23           RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of Maryland affirms its commitment to  
24 combat antisemitism, Islamophobia, and anti–Palestinian/anti–Arab bigotry, its support  
25 for the people of both Israel and Palestine to live in peace and security, and the right of all  
26 people to live, learn, work, play, pray, and engage in peaceful protest, all without threats,  
27 intimidation, or death; and be it further

28           RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
29 Legislative Services to the Honorable Wes Moore, Governor of Maryland; the Honorable  
30 William C. Ferguson, IV, President of the Senate of Maryland; the Honorable Adrienne A.  
31 Jones, Speaker of the House of Delegates; and the Maryland Congressional Delegation.