

My name is Mary Ella Jourdak, I am a resident of 10 Silverwood Circle, Annapolis, Maryland, 21403. I am writing this in strong support of HJ0008 - Condemning Islamophobia, Anti-Palestinian Hate, and Antisemitism.

I am sad that this bill is even necessary, but the reality is that people who are of faiths and origins outside of the American norm are often met with hate on myriad different levels. Any of this is unacceptable, and we must hold those who perpetrate it accountable as well as make sure that Maryland is a safe place for all our communities. I stand firmly with my Jewish and Islamic neighbors, and residents of all places of origin.

We are a better, more beautiful state for our diversity, and we must continue to uphold love, care, and welcome as a Maryland value.