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 B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation
 Bolton Street Synagogue
 Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.
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 Congregation Tiferes Yisroel
 Federation of Jewish Women's
 Organizations of Maryland
 Hadassah
 Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation
 J Street
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 Jewish Labor Committee
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 Zionist Organization of America
 Baltimore District

Written Testimony
House Resolution 8 - Condemning Islamophobia, Anti-Palestinian Hate, and
Antisemitism
House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee – March 4, 2024
OPPOSE

The Baltimore Jewish Council represents The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore, all of its agencies, as well as the organized Jewish Community of Greater Baltimore.

House Resolution 8 seeks to condemn Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian hate, and antisemitism; encourage certain awareness initiatives; and commit to supporting certain legislation and policies.

It states that “Maryland was founded on the principles of **equality, justice, and respect** for the rights and dignity of **all** individuals.” However, nowhere in House Resolution 8 does it condemn anti-Israel hate. To recognize one side of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict but not the other directly goes against the principles of equality, justice, and respect.

It states that “The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to freedom of religion and expression, recognizing the importance of fostering an environment of tolerance and inclusivity.” However, nowhere in House Resolution 8 does it acknowledge the need to foster tolerance and inclusivity toward Israel.

It states that “Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian hate, and antisemitism are forms of discrimination and bigotry that undermine the principles of diversity, tolerance, and mutual respect.” However, nowhere in House Resolution 8 does it state that anti-Israel hate also undermines the principles of diversity, tolerance, and mutual respect.

It states that “Individuals and communities who practice the Islamic faith, identify as Palestinian, or adhere to the Jewish faith have historically faced discrimination, harassment, and violence based on their religious and ethnic backgrounds.” However, nowhere in House Resolution 8 does it state that individuals and communities that identify as Israeli have historically faced discrimination, harassment, and violence based on their religious and ethnic backgrounds.

It states that “Many Muslim Americans, Jewish Americans, and Palestinian Americans, both Christian and Muslim, have been consistently dehumanized and subjected to hate, harassment, and erasure.” However, nowhere in House Resolution 8 does it state that Israeli Americans have been consistently dehumanized and subjected to hate, harassment, and erasure.

It states that “Fostering a culture of understanding, acceptance, and appreciation for religious and ethnic diversity is essential to building a just and harmonious society.” However, it does not acknowledge Israel/Israelis as part of this harmonious society.

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It states that "Combating Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian hate, and antisemitism requires collective efforts from government, civil society, and communities to promote tolerance, inclusion, and education." However, nowhere in House Resolution 8 does it state that anti-Israel hate deserves the same requirements.

It states that "It is the responsibility of the State to condemn all forms of discrimination and to protect the rights and safety of its residents, regardless of their religious or ethnic backgrounds." However, nowhere in House Resolution 8 does it state that anti-Israel hate is included in the definition of "all."

The General Assembly of Maryland **should not** condemn Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian hate, and antisemitism, without also condemning anti-Israel hate. This incredibly biased effort to suppress the clear and present vitriol surrounding the State of Israel is calculated and unacceptable. **For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Council strongly urges an unfavorable report.**

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.