

HB0763
Unfavorable

Sarwat Khan
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Dear Chair Luke Clippinger, Vice Chair J. Sandy Bartlett and
Judiciary committee members,

I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to
House Bill 0763, "Commission on Hate Crime Response
and Prevention - Membership - Alterations," which is
sponsored by Delegates Attar, Vogel, and Rosenberg.

The proposed removal of the Council on American-Islamic
Relations (CAIR) Maryland Office representative from the
Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention is
disheartening, especially given the current climate faced by
Muslim Americans. The United States' policy supporting
Israel's war in Gaza, resulting in the tragic loss of more than
30,000 civilians, with 70% being women and children, has
exacerbated anti-Muslim sentiment.

In the wake of these distressing events, Muslim Americans
here at home are experiencing a surge in anti-Muslim
sentiment and hate crimes. It is a critical time when
organizations like CAIR play a pivotal role in protecting
Maryland Muslims and individuals of all faiths.

CAIR's tireless efforts to combat discrimination and promote understanding among diverse communities are indispensable. The organization's voice is needed now more than ever to ensure the safety and well-being of Maryland Muslims in the face of rising hostility.

I implore you to reconsider HB0763 and recognize the urgent necessity of CAIR's representation in the Commission. Collaborative efforts with CAIR are vital for fostering inclusivity, understanding, and ultimately creating a society that values the safety and rights of all its members.

Thank you,

Sarwat Khan