

HB0763

(UNF) (Oppose)

As a Maryland resident and practicing physician who supports human rights, I strongly urge opposition to HB0763, and urge the retention of a representative of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Maryland on the state's Hate Crimes Commission.

I am active in the movement for peace and social justice. I have worked with members of CAIR Maryland on multiple occasions, in collaborative efforts to promote peace and justice legislation at the federal level by meeting with our congressional representatives down on Capitol Hill in DC.

I have the highest opinion of CAIR Maryland.

Representatives of CAIR Maryland, as I have directly observed based on my personal experience, work very well with Jewish, Christian, and Muslim allies, all in the name of peace and justice.

CAIR Maryland stands strongly against antisemitism, against Islamophobia, and against racism and hate speech of any kind. CAIR has repeatedly condemned hate crimes against Jewish Americans.

HB0763 represents a vicious smear campaign against the indispensable work conducted by the Maryland office of CAIR.

No other representative of the Muslim community in Maryland enjoys the trust and support that CAIR Maryland does.

I respectfully urge you **preserve public trust** in the work of the state's Hate Crimes Commission by maintaining the Maryland office director of CAIR as the commission's representative for the state's Muslim community. **In the strongest possible terms, I oppose House Bill 0763.**

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

William F. Simonds, MD
11902 Smoketree Rd.
Potomac, Maryland 20854