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**Testimony in Support of HB 1460 – State Procurement – Prohibited
Certifications – Boycotts of Foreign Countries**

To the Health and Government Operations Committee

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House Bill 1460 will overturn [Executive Order 01.01.2017.25](#), which prohibits discriminatory boycotts of Israel by any state supplier or contractor. The Executive Branch wanted to show its support of Israel, I suppose. However, the order directly violates the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The order does not require any business that is awarded a state contract to do business with Israel. That would be ridiculous, would it not? What the order effectively does is prohibit a person or corporation who wants to do business with the State of Maryland from *saying* that they are boycotting Israel. It requires all such entities to certify that they are not boycotting Israel. Such certification does not apply to any other country or nation.

The precedent set by Executive Order 01.01.2017.25 could be applied to any nation, creating a complex hodge-podge of certifications that bidders or offerors would be required to make. House Bill 1460 forbids Maryland procurement officers from requiring such a certification in any state solicitation. It applies equally to all foreign countries. Maryland should not be requiring its citizens to take a particular position on foreign relations with any nation in order to do business with the State. Please issue a favorable report on HB 1460.