

Rebecca Ritter

Regarding Health & Govt. Operations Committee
HB 1460, Boycotts of Foreign Countries
Tuesday, March 11, 2025

My name is Rebecca Ritter and I am a concerned resident of Baltimore County. I am testifying in support of HB 1460, which would protect the civil liberties of business owners and Maryland citizens in their constitutional right to boycott and participate in international advocacy.

Companies bidding for contracts from the state of Maryland should not be asked to abandon their right to political expression. Perversely, the current requirements **mandate** that private citizens and companies support the actions of a foreign government if they wish to do business with the state.

This requirement muzzles the voices of politically active small business owners and works against the state of Maryland's commitment to contract with minority-owned businesses. As a person of Jewish heritage and lifelong resident of Maryland, I want my state to foster an environment of inclusion and advocacy. This bill will help reaffirm our state's commitment to constitutional freedoms.

Your consideration of these matters is very much appreciated.