

Health and Government Operations Committee

My name is Nadia Carrell and I am a District 18 constituent, homeowner, and taxpayer for over 32 years

I am here to urge passage of HB 1460

The executive order issued in 2017 barring state agencies from contracting with companies that engage in boycotts, divestments, or sanctions of Israel was a clear violation of First Amendment Rights. The Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld the right to boycott as a form of political expression protected under the First Amendment. Individuals and businesses should not have to give up their constitutional rights in order to secure state contracts.

The order also is exclusive to Israel. There are not such restrictions, unlawful as they are, on boycotting any other country. And by singling out Israel, the order impacts advocates who speak up for Palestinian rights, Syrian rights and Lebanese rights, and in fact anyone who speaks out against the Israeli policies of occupation and apartheid.

This bill is important for protecting civil liberties, promoting Justice and Equality, and Strengthening Democracy.

Please protect free speech and uphold constitutional rights.