

Testimony in Support of HB 1460 – j State Procurement – Prohibited

Certifications – Boycotts of Foreign Countries
To the Health and Government Operations Committee

March 11, 2025

Testimony: Favorable

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 in so doing possibly violates free speech. However, I am not a lawyer, nor constitutional scholar. Nonetheless, I do not understand why the State should single out one particular nation for which this kind of certification, that before doing business with the State, such individual or company has to certify that they are not boycotting. The precedent set by Executive Order 01.01.2017.25 could be applied to any nation. We could add Ukraine, or United Kingdom, or whatever nation the state wants to align with but is this appropriate for Maryland do be doing. I do not think so. I urge passage of House Bill 1460 which 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.

Gwen L. DuBois MD
gdubois@jhsph.edu
1817 Sulgrave Ave.
Baltimore, Md. 21209