



Testimony in Support of HB1460
Presented by Prince George's 4 Palestine

Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health & Government Operations Committee,

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Prince George's 4 Palestine, a grassroots organization with over 500 members advocating for justice and liberation for the Palestinian people. We urge you to support HB1460, a bill that seeks to repeal Governor Larry Hogan's executive order prohibiting Maryland contractors from engaging in boycotts against Israel.

For over six years, this policy has remained in effect, infringing upon the fundamental rights of Marylanders and penalizing individuals and businesses for exercising their constitutionally protected right to boycott. This executive order disproportionately affects liberation-minded individuals and minority business owners in our communities by restricting their ability to secure state contracts simply because of their political beliefs and ethical commitments.

Despite repeated efforts—[over 1,300 attempts in the past two years alone](#)—to urge Governor Wes Moore to repeal this harmful order, no action has been taken. It is now up to the Maryland Legislature to correct this injustice by passing HB1460.

Prince George's 4 Palestine has been deeply engaged in mobilizing support for Palestinian rights at the local level. Through persistent advocacy, we have secured ceasefire resolutions in eight municipalities within our county, and our work has been recognized in national and regional media outlets such as *The Washington Post* and *Intersection Magazine*. We firmly believe that the freedom to engage in boycotts is a fundamental right and an essential tool in movements for social justice, from the Montgomery Bus Boycott to the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa. Maryland should not be in the business of silencing dissent or compelling businesses to forfeit their values in order to compete for public contracts.

HB1460 is not just about Palestine—it is about reaffirming our state's commitment to civil liberties, free speech, and the ability of all people to stand in solidarity with global human rights movements without fear of economic reprisal. We urge this committee to vote in favor of HB1460 and to ensure that Maryland stands on the right side of history.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Raaheela Ahmed
Prince George's 4 Palestine