

Montgomery County Jewish Collective Testimony in Favor of HB1460
State Procurements-Prohibited Certifications-Boycotts of Foreign Countries

Position: Favorable

Dear Honorable Chair Pena-Melnyk and members of the Maryland House Health and Government Operations Committee:

The [Montgomery County Jewish Collective \(MCJC\)](#) is a community of Jews in Montgomery County, Maryland who are committed to collective liberation as the cornerstone of a vibrant, safe, and supportive Jewish community.

We are providing this testimony to state our support of HB1460.

The executive order signed by former Governor Larry Hogan in 2017 bars state agencies from contracting with companies that engage in boycotts of the state of Israel. Currently, contractors are required to certify that they are not participating in a boycott or other activity regarding Israel that is banned by this order.

This executive order is ridiculous and unconstitutional. It is an infringement on free speech and economic freedom, and creates unnecessary administrative work for the state and its employees.

The state of Maryland should not be policing what a contractor does or does not do with its money or time outside of its work for the state. The state is also practicing discrimination by policing only one type of boycott, against one particular country. If a contractor of Palestinian descent decides to have a personal or business policy to not visit Israel or buy goods from that country, for obvious reasons, should the state of Maryland really have an official policy to refuse to hire them? It defies all logic and is clearly prejudicial against those who do not wish to support one specific foreign entity. Maryland should never have codified such bias.

Former Governor Hogan's order is un-American and should be invalidated. That is what HB1460 would do and it should be passed without amendments.

Thank you.

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