



## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

### UNFAVORABLE

### **HB1460- State Procurement - Prohibited Certifications - Boycotts of Foreign Countries**

Health and Government Operations Committee  
March 11, 2025

The Maryland Legislative Jewish Caucus (MLJC), a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates, **strongly opposes** HB 1460, which prohibits the Maryland Office of State Procurement from requiring prospective state contractors to certify they don't boycott any foreign nation.

In October 2017, then-Governor Larry Hogan signed Executive Order 0.1.01.2017.25 that prohibits the state from entering into contracts with companies that boycott, divest or sanction (BDS) the State of Israel. If enacted, HB 1460 will effectively overturn this executive order.

In short, the global BDS movement seeks to use economic isolation to coerce Israel into acting differently—drawing an often explicit connection between the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and South African apartheid. To the even simple observer, this comparison drastically oversimplifies the situation in Israel and serves to delegitimize the existence of the Jewish state. Indeed, the BDS movement aims to spread anti-Israel sentiment and has been classified as antisemitic by the United States, the Anti-Defamation League, and a 2019 UN Report.

Further, overturning the executive order could harm Maryland workers and companies and disrupt the long history of cooperation and trade between Maryland and Israel.

The MLJC believes the State of Maryland has an obligation to engage in business with companies that align with its values. Given our progressive commitments to diversity, tolerance, and inclusion, the MLJC believes this legislation is the wrong policy to pursue.

For these reasons, we urge an unfavorable report on HB 1460.