



Testimony in Support of HB1394
Presented by Prince George's 4 Palestine

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of **Prince George's 4 Palestine**, a grassroots organization of over 500 members advocating for justice and human rights in Palestine and beyond. We strongly urge you to support HB1394, a crucial bill that reaffirms Maryland's commitment to upholding human rights and ensuring that certain nonprofits operating within the state are not permitted to aid or abet the Israeli government or its citizens in furthering human rights violations against the Palestinian people.

For decades, Israel has engaged in a brutal campaign of occupation, ethnic cleansing, and apartheid against the Palestinian people, with complete impunity. It has illegally seized Palestinian land, bombed civilians, maintained an inhumane blockade on Gaza, and carried out systematic violence against an entire population. The United Nations and numerous human rights organizations, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, have documented these atrocities, confirming that Israel is operating an apartheid state.

HB1394 is a necessary step toward ethical governance, ensuring that Maryland does not allow nonprofits registered in the state to contribute to international injustices through financial support, services, or advocacy that aid the Israeli government or its citizens in violating Palestinian rights. This bill seeks to prevent public funds from indirectly bolstering entities complicit in gross human rights abuses, aligning our state's economic practices with our values of justice and accountability. Maryland must not allow its resources to be used to prop up Israel's war machine, which massacres civilians and enforces a system of violent oppression against Palestinians.

Prince George's 4 Palestine has worked tirelessly to raise awareness and advocate for justice at the municipal and state levels. Our organizing efforts have contributed to the passage of ceasefire resolutions in eight county municipalities. Our members believe that Maryland must take a principled stand to ensure that taxpayer dollars and nonprofit entities operating within our state are not complicit in funding Israel's crimes against humanity.

Supporting HB1394 is not just a matter of fiscal responsibility; it is a moral imperative. We urge this committee to vote in favor of HB1394 to affirm Maryland's role in promoting human rights, justice, and ethical governance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Raaheela Ahmed
Prince George's 4 Palestine