



## Council on American-Islamic Relations

CAIR Office in Maryland

6120 Baltimore National Pike, Suite 2D

Baltimore, MD 21228

E-mail: [mdoutreach@cair.com](mailto:mdoutreach@cair.com) URL [www.cair.com](http://www.cair.com)

Tele 410-971-6062 Fax 202-488-0833

March 5, 2025

Honorable Chair Luke Clippinger  
House Judiciary Committee  
100 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

### **Re: Testimony Favorable for HB 1394 Not On Our Dime Act**

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 1394, the Not On Our Dime Act, which aims to prohibit nonprofit organizations operating in Maryland from supporting illegal Israeli settlement activity in occupied Palestinian territories in violation of international law.

HB 1394 represents a critical step toward ensuring that Maryland's laws align with our state's commitment to human rights, justice, and national and international legal standards. The bill reaffirms that nonprofit organizations, which benefit from public trust and tax exemptions, must not be complicit in perpetuating human rights violations or acts of violence against protected persons in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

International law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, explicitly prohibits the transfer of an occupying power's civilian population into occupied territory, as well as acts of violence, forced displacement, and destruction of property against protected persons. By preventing Maryland-registered nonprofits from financially or materially aiding such activities, HB 1394 ensures that Maryland is not complicit in human rights abuses abroad.

Palestinian communities in the occupied West Bank face alarming rates of violence, forced displacement, and the destruction of homes, schools, and essential infrastructure at the hands of Israeli settlers and military forces. Charitable donations funneled through nonprofit organizations to fund these illegal settlements exacerbate this suffering and undermine the prospects for a just and lasting peace. Maryland has a moral obligation to ensure that our state does not inadvertently contribute to these violations.

This legislation provides essential accountability by empowering the Attorney General and harmed individuals to seek injunctive relief and damages from nonprofit organizations found to be in violation. Furthermore, the bill's provision for removing offending organizations from the Registry of Charitable Solicitation ensures that entities engaged in support of illegal Israeli settlement activity are not permitted to continue soliciting donations from Maryland residents.

HB 1394 is a principled and necessary measure that upholds Maryland's longstanding commitment to human rights, justice, and the rule of law. CAIR Maryland urges the Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report on this bill and stand in solidarity with communities advocating for peace, dignity, and justice for all.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Washington D.C.

Alabama Arizona California Colorado Connecticut Florida Georgia Illinois Kansas Kentucky Maryland  
Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Missouri New Jersey New York North Carolina Ohio Oklahoma Pennsylvania  
Texas Washington

Respectfully,

Zainab Chaudry, Pharm.D.  
Director, CAIR Maryland  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
zchaudry@cair.com

**Washington D.C.**

Alabama Arizona California Colorado Connecticut Florida Georgia Illinois Kansas Kentucky Maryland  
Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Missouri New Jersey New York North Carolina Ohio Oklahoma Pennsylvania  
Texas Washington