

## Testimony in Favor for HB1394

As a Maryland college student and a Muslim, I strongly support House Bill 1394, also known as the "Not On Our Dime Act." This legislation is a crucial step toward ensuring that nonprofit organizations operating within our state do not contribute to activities that violate international law and human rights.

This bill is deeply personal to me. I have friends who have lost family members due to the ongoing genocide and displacement of Palestinians in the occupied territories. I have seen their grief, their pain, and their struggle to find justice in a world that too often turns a blind eye. The suffering they have endured is not just a distant geopolitical issue, it is a reality that affects families, communities, and individuals right here in Maryland.

House Bill 1394 upholds Maryland's commitment to ethical governance by prohibiting nonprofits from knowingly engaging in unauthorized support of Israeli settlement activity. The bill aligns with established international legal principles, including the Geneva Conventions, by addressing unlawful transfers of civilians into occupied territory, destruction of property, and acts of violence against protected persons. By enforcing accountability, the bill ensures that charitable donations raised in Maryland are not misused to fund actions that contribute to displacement, destruction, and suffering.

As students, we are taught to uphold principles of justice, human rights, and the rule of law. Allowing nonprofits to engage in or facilitate settlement activities that violate these principles undermines Maryland's moral and legal responsibilities. This bill does not target specific communities or perspectives but instead reinforces a standard of ethical nonprofit conduct that should apply universally.

House Bill 1394 establishes necessary enforcement mechanisms, allowing legal action against those who violate these provisions and ensuring that organizations acting against the public interest are held accountable. It empowers individuals who have suffered harm to seek justice and prevents continued complicity in violations of international law.

I urge Maryland lawmakers to pass this bill to ensure that our state remains committed to justice, ethical governance, and responsible nonprofit oversight. As a Muslim student, as a friend of those who have suffered, and as someone who believes in the fundamental dignity of all people, I cannot stay silent. We must stand on the right side of history by supporting legislation that upholds human rights and prevents the misuse of charitable resources.