

SoMD DSA Testimony on HB 1394 (Not On My Dime).pdf

Uploaded by: Bernard Eydt

Position: FAV

HB 1394
Favor (FAV)
Democratic Socialists of America - Southern Maryland Chapter
Palestine Solidarity Working Group
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The Southern Maryland (SoMD) Chapter of the Democratic Socialist of America (DSA) strongly supports universal housing justice – the principle that all people deserve a secure home, a place that will not be arbitrarily taken from them or deliberately destroyed or rendered uninhabitable. People deserve to live without fear of eviction or displacement by either a state or landlord. This is true in Maryland and around the world.

SoMD DSA is a proud advocate of housing as a human right. When residents of Lord Calvert Mobile Homes faced displacement from redevelopment and gentrification, we helped them save their homes and form a tenant association. We have also fought for social housing in Saint Mary's County, and plan to continue that fight until tenants have democratic control over their housing.

Our belief that a home is a human right extends far beyond our borders and to the international working class - especially those being colonized and displaced. We ask the Maryland General Assembly to ask a basic question for every bill: Does it promote human dignity or does it undermine it?

Right now, the State of Maryland incentivizes housing injustice by allowing Marylanders to take a tax deduction for contributions to "charities" that promote Israeli settlement of Palestinian land in the occupied territories such as the West Bank and East Jerusalem, which forcibly displaces Palestinians not only from their physical homes, but from their ancestral homeland.

These settlements are deemed illegal under United Nations Security Council Resolutions 446 (1979), 452 (1979), 465 (1980), and 2334 (2016). Most recently, in July 2024, the International Court of Justice found that Israel's settlement regime was an illegal military occupation, segregation and apartheid.

The human consequences have been devastating to Palestinians, who have seen their homes and supporting infrastructure destroyed, along with livestock and crops. Israeli settlers and the Israel Defense Force have killed hundreds of Palestinians in a brutal campaign to force them from the homes where many families have lived for generations. Even in the past few days, Israeli tanks have entered the West Bank city of Jenin, forcing 40,000 Palestinians to flee their homes, followed by a statement from the Israeli Minister of Defense that the intent is "prevent the return of residents." The nature and scale of this injustice is in no way defensive and occurring on our dime.

If made law, HB 1394 would stop this injustice. We urge the Committee to pass HB 1394.

CharlieCooper_HB1394test_030525.pdf

Uploaded by: Charlie Cooper

Position: FAV

Charlie Cooper

2359 Nutmeg Terrace
Baltimore, MD 21209

**Testimony in Support of HB 1394 - Civil Actions - Nonprofit Organizations -
Unauthorized Support of Israeli Settlement Activity (Not On Our Dime Act)**

To the House Judiciary Committee

March 5, 2025

I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to hear Rabbi Arik Ascherman speak about his experience trying to protect Palestinians in the West Bank against the harassment, theft, and violence that is routinely perpetrated by Israeli settlers. These acts are intended to discourage Palestinians from herding and olive harvesting and to encourage them to abandon their land so that Israelis can expropriate it. The Israeli Defense Force permits these illegal acts.

Rabbi Ascherman is the founder of the organization, "Torat Tzedek-Torah of Justice," and he has a long history of human rights work. [Here](#) is an excerpt of his story of defending a Palestinian shepherd last August:

Then settlers on motorcycles tore into his flock, scattering them and driving them towards a [Jewish] settlement, where they would disappear forever. We almost never manage to recover stolen flocks. My fellow human rights defenders chased after them and managed to begin to bring them back. The motorcycles came back and scattered them again.

Rabbi Ascherman's story gives us a window into the kinds of illegal actions that Maryland charities should not be allowed to support – the kinds of actions that motivate the introduction of HB 1394.

When the ceasefire in Gaza began on January 19, 2025, Israel dramatically escalated its illegal actions in the West Bank. According to [National Public Radio](#), more than 40,000 people have been forced from their homes. "In Jenin refugee camp, bulldozed roads were photographed with new street signs reportedly now written in Hebrew." ([United Nations](#).) When we hear that Israel wants all Palestinians to be expelled from Gaza, we should understand that this applies more broadly to the West Bank.

All these actions described in the definitions section on pages 2 and 3 of HB 1394 are illegal under international law, and we should not be complicit in supporting this type of ethnic cleansing. Please issue a favorable report on HB 1394, and take one small step for justice.

House Bill 1394 Favorable 2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Debi Jasen

Position: FAV

Judiciary Committee
House Bill 1394
FAVORABLE

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Judiciary Committee;

Please give House Bill 1394, the Not On Our Dime Act, a Favorable report.

We shouldn't, in any manner, support genocide.

Sincerely,
Debi Jasen
Pasadena, MD

HB1394 Fav - ROUNDS.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Heather Rounds

Position: FAV

HB 1394
Civil Actions – Nonprofit Organizations – Unauthorized Support of Israeli
Settlement Activity (Not On Our Dime Act)

Hearing before the House Judiciary Committee

March 5th, 2025

Position: FAV

My name is Heather Rounds and I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1394. I firmly believe that the "Not On Our Dime Act" is essential for several reasons.

The bill aligns with international law, specifically the Geneva Conventions, which prohibit the unlawful transfer of civilians into occupied territories and acts of violence against protected persons. Israel frequently violates international law through its actions in the occupied territories. Israel's construction of settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem breaches the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits an occupying power from transferring its own population into the occupied territory. The blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip is a form of collective punishment, which contravenes international humanitarian law. Additionally, Israel's military actions in Gaza and the West Bank, including airstrikes and ground operations routinely lead to civilian casualties and destroy civilian infrastructure, violating principles of distinction and proportionality. The torture and ill-treatment of Palestinian prisoners, as well as severe restrictions on movement in the West Bank, further underscore Israel's lack of adherence to international law. These actions not only harm the affected populations but also undermine the legal and moral standards upheld by the international community.

Nonprofit organizations play a significant role in society, and it is vital that their activities align with ethical standards. House Bill 1394 ensures that these organizations do not engage in or support activities that violate international law, thereby promoting ethical practices and accountability. The bill aims to protect vulnerable populations in occupied territories from violence and exploitation. By prohibiting support for activities that harm these populations, Maryland can help safeguard their rights and well-being. Furthermore, I appreciate that this bill empowers the Attorney General and other authorities to take action against nonprofit organizations that violate the law. This strengthens state oversight and ensures that organizations operating within Maryland adhere to legal and ethical standards.

By discouraging support for unauthorized settlement activities, the bill contributes to efforts to achieve peace and stability in conflict regions. It sends a clear message that Maryland stands against actions that perpetuate conflict and supports initiatives that promote peaceful resolutions. In conclusion, House Bill 1394 is a necessary measure to ensure that nonprofit organizations in Maryland operate ethically and in accordance with international law. It protects vulnerable populations, promotes accountability, and contributes to global peace and stability.

I respectfully urge this committee to support HB1394.

Thank you,

Heather Rounds

Heather Rounds, grant writer & non-profit manager
heatherrounds@gmail.com / 410.491.5722 / 5173 Viaduct Avenue, Halethorpe MD 21227

HB1394 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Jannah Nassar

Position: FAV

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am submitting this testimony here today to express my strong support for House Bill 1394, which seeks to prohibit organizations from aiding and abetting activities by the government of Israel or its citizens that violate international law in occupied territories.

For the past 16 months, I have had to watch the genocide of the Palestinian people unfold before my eyes. I watched as Israeli Defense forces raided al-Shifa hospital and murdered hundreds of innocent people. I heard news of 6 year old hind rajab being trapped in a vehicle with 6 murdered family members while sitting in class. I listened to my own community grieve the loss of their family for months. And the State of Maryland was complicit in murdering the families of its own students.

This bill is crucial in holding organizations in Maryland ethically responsible. By ensuring that these organizations do not engage in unauthorized support of Israeli settlement activities, we take a firm stand against practices that have been widely recognized as contrary to the principles of human rights and international humanitarian law.

The expansion of settlements in the occupied territories not only undermines peace efforts but also has devastating effects on the lives of countless individuals, both Palestinian and Israeli. These settlements often lead to forced evictions, acts of violence, and the destruction of homes and livelihoods. As a state that values justice, equity, and human dignity, Maryland must not tolerate the complicity of our nonprofit organizations in these actions.

House Bill 1394 empowers the Attorney General to enforce this prohibition, ensuring that any organization that violates the terms of this act can be held accountable. This provision is vital; it provides a mechanism for the state to act decisively against those who engage in activities that facilitate human rights violations. Additionally, the bill protects the integrity of charitable organizations in Maryland by ensuring that donations are used in ways that align with our values and principles.

Furthermore, this legislation aligns with international norms and the commitments made by the United States under various treaties, including the Geneva Conventions. By enacting this bill, Maryland takes a proactive step in promoting international law and standing against actions that are widely condemned by the global community.

I urge you to consider the moral and ethical implications of this legislation. Supporting House Bill 1394 is not just about legal compliance; it is about standing for justice and ensuring that our state does not inadvertently support actions that violate the rights of protected persons under international law.

In conclusion, I strongly support House Bill 1394 and encourage this committee to advance it without delay. Together, we can ensure that Maryland leads by example in promoting human rights and accountability in our nonprofit sector.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Not On Our Dime Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Justin Li

Position: FAV

March 5, 2025

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

Dear Chair Luke Clippinger and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Justin Li and I am a District 17 constituent living in Rockville. I am writing to urge the House Judiciary Committee to adopt House Bill 1394, Not On Our Dime Act. This legislation is a vital step toward ensuring that Maryland's nonprofit organizations cannot misuse their tax-exempt status to fund illegal Israeli settlement activity in occupied Palestinian territories. It aligns our state's values with international law, human rights, and the conscience of our communities.

Throughout last year, as a senior at University of Maryland, I mobilized with other students calling for investment transparency and accountability of the school in response to the war in Gaza. I witnessed my Palestinian classmates collapse in tears recalling receiving calls that their relatives were killed in between classes. Palestinian stories and images like this have haunted me, as I'm sure to all others who have the basic human empathy. I learned from the same students how the war carries the same colonial logic of the decades of violent settlements, and we ought to stop all the ways Maryland is still materially funneling it.

Recent reports from the United Nations confirm that Israel's settlement operations have reached a devastating tipping point. In January 2025, a military offensive displacing 40,000 Palestinians in the West Bank destroyed critical infrastructure—water systems, homes, even animal shelters—and rendered entire refugee camps “uninhabitable.” These actions, part of Operation Iron Wall, echo the brutality of past military campaigns, violating the Geneva Conventions through forced transfer, collective punishment, and the systematic annexation of land. This is not an isolated incident. For decades, illegal settlements have displaced Palestinians and carved their homeland into fragmented “bantustans”. Over 700,000 settlers now occupy stolen land, enabled by violence, discriminatory laws, and the complicity of external actors.

Tax-exempt organizations in the U.S. can play a direct role in this crisis. US synagogues have hosted real estate fairs for groups like My Home in Israel, which market West Bank settlements, promoting properties built on land seized through ethnic cleansing. Nonprofits shouldn't be able to exploit charitable registries to subsidize war crimes, all while enjoying public trust and tax benefits, and this bill provides a mechanism for the state to act decisively on this principle.

When I marched with my classmates to divest from genocide-profitteers last year, my Jewish friends—who once found solace in cultural spaces—were forced to host private Shabbat dinners due to their opposition to the war. Some of their communal institutions have become political

battlegrounds, even diverting money and resources to rally people to organize against the student movement for Palestine.

This is the hypocrisy HB 1394 confronts: nonprofits masquerading as charitable entities while facilitating the violation of international human rights. They claim to serve “cultural” or “religious” missions, but one way or another, their dollars fund bulldozers that erase Palestinian villages, sniper towers that surveil families, and laws that bar UNRWA from delivering food to starving children.

Please pass HB 1394; declare that not one more dollar from our state will fuel more Israeli settlements. The Palestinian child drinking sewage-contaminated water in Jenin, the Jewish student ostracized by politicized communal spaces, and the Maryland taxpayers unwittingly funding this horror demand nothing less.

Thank you,

Justin Li
District 17
justinhli830@gmail.com

HB 1394 Not on Our Dime Act Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Killian McGinnis

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1394

*Civil Actions - Nonprofit Organizations - Unauthorized Support of Israeli Settlement Activity
(Not On Our Dime Act)*

House Judiciary Committee

March 5, 2025

As a lifelong Maryland resident and advocate for human rights, I strongly support HB 1394, which will prohibit non-profit organizations in Maryland from advancing illegal settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and create a legal pathway to compensation for affected parties. The bill defines prohibited activities as those banned under the Geneva Conventions, including the unlawful transfer of civilians into occupied territory, acts of settler violence, crimes against property, blocking access to and annexing Palestinian lands, forced displacement, and the destruction of infrastructure. The bill also requires the Maryland Secretary of State to remove non-profits found in violation from the Registry of Charitable Solicitation.

For Palestinians, Israeli settlement activity in the West Bank brings extreme violence, dispossession, and forced displacement. In Hebron, for example, horrific acts of settler violence and the occupying Israeli army have pushed thousands of Palestinian residents from the City Center, and hundreds of Palestinian businesses and residences have been shuttered.¹ Olive trees, central to the Palestinian economy, are systematically removed by the occupying army and settlers in an effort to destroy Palestinian livelihoods.² These land grabs have only intensified since 2023.³ As of this year, three West Bank refugee camps have been violently cleared of their residents.⁴

In 2015, I visited the West Bank and saw firsthand the horrors of the Israeli Occupation, including many of the prohibited activities outlined in this bill. I met families whose homes had been broken into at all hours of the night, vandalized by the Israeli army. I saw settlers, many of whom are U.S. citizens, disrupt the Muslim call to prayer at Ibrahimi Mosque, chanting “Death to Arabs.” Soon after returning to the U.S.,

¹ Feuerstein, O. (2007). Ghost town: Israel's separation policy and forced eviction of Palestinians from the center of Hebron. B'Tselem: The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories and The Association for Civil Rights in Israel. ISSN 0793-520X.

https://www.btselem.org/publications/summaries/200705_hebron

² Hedroug, L. (2023, March 11). Israel's Campaign Against Palestinian Olive Trees. The Yale Review of International Studies.

<https://yris.yira.org/column/israels-campaign-against-on-palestinian-olive-trees/>

³ B'Tselem: The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories. (2025, January 22). 2024 West Bank olive harvest: Israel furthers land grab through tighter restrictions on Palestinians and extreme state violence.

https://www.btselem.org/video/20250122_2024_west_bank_olive_harvest_israel_furthers_land_grab_through_tighter_restrictions_on_palestinians_and_extreme_state_violence#full

⁴ Bennett, T. (2025, February 23). Israel expels residents of three West Bank refugee camps. BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cg70r9enm7po>

a Palestinian mother and activist who I met in the town of Nabi Saleh, while nonviolently protesting the annexation of her land, was shot with live ammunition by Israeli soldiers.⁵ I wondered—and continue to wonder—how these actions, illegal under international law,⁶ could go unchecked.

U.S. non-profit organizations, including in Maryland, are crucial to the violent architecture of Israeli settlement enterprise.⁷ For example, organizations like the Jewish National Fund, superficially known as a tree-planting organization, use subsidiaries to illegally acquire land in the West Bank for Israeli settlements.⁸ In 2015, a Haaretz investigation revealed over \$220 million in tax-exempt funds used to advance settlement activity.⁹ The Guardian more recently documented how crowdfunding campaigns are used for this purpose.¹⁰ Yet, there is little public acknowledgement of this fact, and no legal consequences for these organizations, who continually violate international—and likely domestic U.S. discrimination law—through their actions.

Non-profit organizations in Maryland should not be allowed to take advantage of their tax status in order to promote Israeli settlement activities, which violate international law and human rights. As a Maryland taxpayer, I am ashamed that our nonprofit sector may be used to funnel financial and logistical support to a foreign government and its civilian actors, who repeatedly violate the Geneva Conventions and enact extreme violence with impunity. **HB 1394 creates a necessary legal mechanism by which nonprofits can be held accountable for these actions.**

I urge the committee to report favorably HB 1394 to the full House.

⁵ Activestills. (2015, April 5). Photos: Soldiers fire live ammo, wound two in Nabi Saleh protest. <https://www.972mag.com/photos-soldiers-fire-live-ammo-wound-two-in-nabi-saleh-protest/>

⁶ United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). (2024, September 13). Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. UN Doc A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1. <https://docs.un.org/en/A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1>

⁷ Hodges, E. (2022, June 10). Hidden in plain sight: U.S. nonprofits as drivers of illegal Israeli settlements. Just Security. <https://www.justsecurity.org/81847/hidden-in-plain-sight-us-nonprofits-as-drivers-of-illegal-israeli-settlements/>

⁸ DAWN MENA. (2025, January 17). US: Sanction Jewish National Fund-Israel (KKL-JNF) for Funding Settlement Expansion and Fostering Settler Violence. [https://dawnmena.org/us-sanction-jewish-national-fund-israel-kl-jnf-for-funding-settlement-expansion-and-fostering-settler-violence/#:~:text=KKL%2DJNF%2C%20the%20124%2Doccupied%20Palestinian%20territory%20\(OPT\)%2C](https://dawnmena.org/us-sanction-jewish-national-fund-israel-kl-jnf-for-funding-settlement-expansion-and-fostering-settler-violence/#:~:text=KKL%2DJNF%2C%20the%20124%2Doccupied%20Palestinian%20territory%20(OPT)%2C)

⁹ Blau, U. Haaretz investigation: U.S. donors gave settlements more than \$220 million in tax-exempt funds Over five years. Haaretz. <https://www.haaretz.com/2015-12-07/ty-article/haaretz-investigates-u-s-donors-to-israeli-settlements/0000017f-f6bb-d460-afff-ffffd93e0000>

¹⁰ Wilson, J. (2023, December 23). Revealed: how US residents are funding illegal settlements in the West Bank. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/dec/23/crowdfunding-us-residents-fund-settlements-west-bank>

HB 1394 - Favorable - Liz Cabrera Holtz.pdf

Uploaded by: Liz Cabrera Holtz

Position: FAV

House Judiciary Committee
Position: Favorable on HB 1394 (Not On Our Dime Act)
March 5, 2025

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

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Liz Cabrera Holtz, and I'm a District 15 constituent living in Potomac. I am writing in strong support of HB 1394, Not On Our Dime Act.

Nonprofit organizations in Maryland should not be aiding and abetting activities that violate international law. Every day, news reports document the expansion of settlements in the occupied territories. This expansion undermines peace efforts and is destroying families. Settlements lead to forced evictions, acts of violence, and the destruction of homes and livelihoods.

As a Maryland resident, I am proud that we often stand up for the most vulnerable members of society. We are a state that defends justice and human dignity. We should not be allowing nonprofit organizations to support and further this kind of cruelty.

Liz Cabrera Holtz
District 15, 20854
lizholtz@gmail.com

SB1394-MaryEllaJourdak-Opposition.pdf

Uploaded by: Mary Ella Jourdak

Position: FAV

HB1394

March 5th, 2025

Maryland House Judiciary Committee
101 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Testimony SUPPORTING HB1394

Dear Chairperson Clippinger and the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Mary Ella Jourdak. I am writing to express my strong support to HB1394, the Unauthorized Support of Israeli Settlement Activity (Not On Our Dime Act). This is a small step towards addressing Maryland's role in the ongoing displacement and genocide of the Palestinian people.

While I appreciate that the genocide and displacement of Palestinians may not be at the top of all Maryland lawmaker's minds, it is important to understand that both our tax dollars, and the donations of Marylanders to non-profit organizations, can be directly linked to Israel and their occupation and theft of Palestinian land.

In 2024, Israel illegally claimed 23.7 sq km of Palestinian land. That is the equivalent of 3,330 football fields, or 322 White House grounds. Please refer to graphic 1 and graphic 2 at the end of this letter.

These illegal claims on land create illegal settlements, which the United Nations security council has called "a flagrant violation under international law". Furthermore, this landgrab does not happen in a vacuum, where land is peaceably stolen. In 2025 alone, 81 residents of the Westbank, including 17 children, have been killed.

(Source:

www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/unrwa-situation-report-161-situation-gaza-strip-and-west-bank-including-east-jerusalem)

In 2015, Israeli newspaper Haaretz wrote that at least 50 non-profit organizations across the US were involved in fundraising for Israeli settlements. Haaretz wrote that money went "toward providing legal aid to Jews accused or convicted of terrorism, and supporting their families" through a "legal aid society" called Honenu. "Among those who benefited from the group's support in 2013 were the family of Ami Popper, who murdered seven Palestinian laborers in 1990, and members of the Bat Ayin Underground, which attempted to detonate a bomb at a girls' school in East Jerusalem in 2002."

(Source:

<https://www.haaretz.com/2015-12-07/ty-article/haaretz-investigates-u-s-donors-to-israeli-settlements/0000017f-f6bb-d460-afff-ffffd93e0000>)

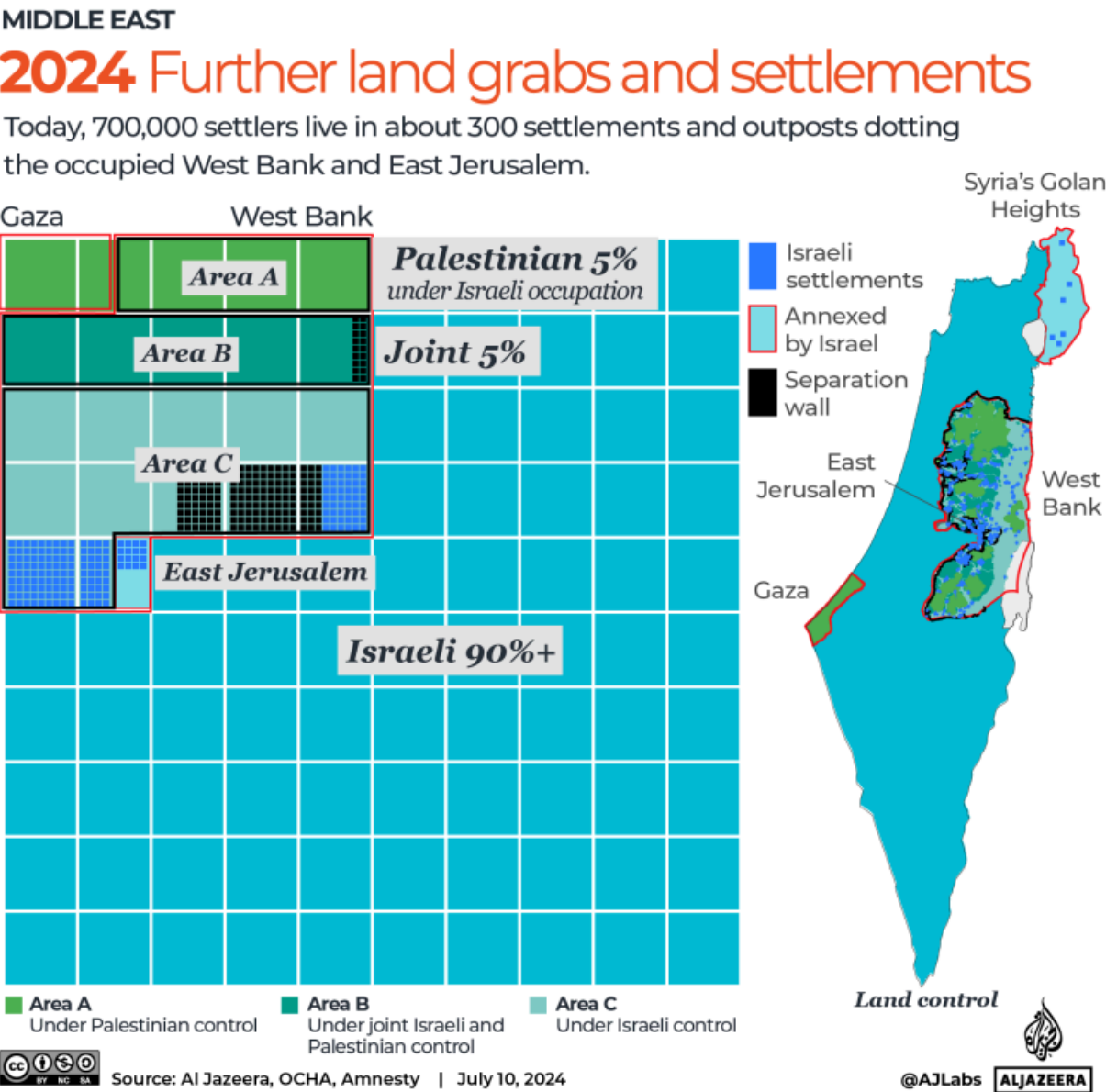
While we cannot take retroactive action for the loss of life and land in Palestine, we can certainly take steps towards ensuring that support for continued violence and illegal land theft does not happen on Maryland's watch or with the financial backing of residents.

HB1394 seeks to hold non-profit organizations accountable for their role in violating international law, and would allow Maryland to do its part to enforce international law. Aiding and abetting war crimes is not a value that we should share as Marylanders. Please, I ask that you find a favorable report for HB1934. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mary Ella Jourdak

GRAPHIC ONE
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/7/11/how-israel-keeps-stealing-palestinian-land>

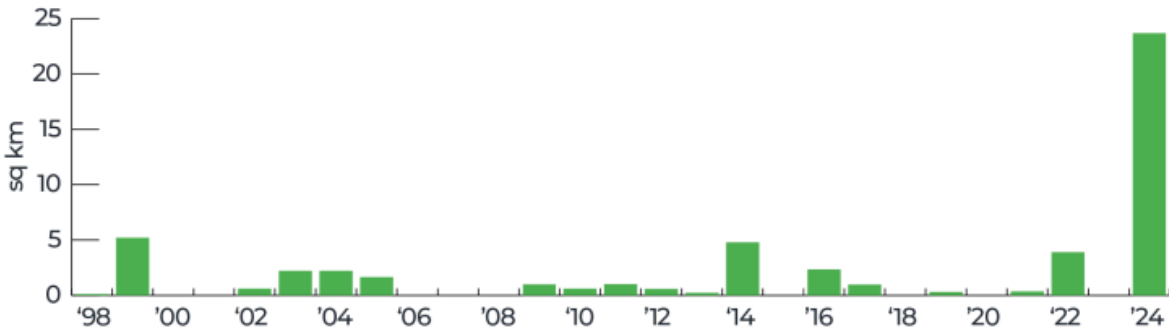


GRAPHIC TWO
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/7/11/how-israel-keeps-stealing-palestinian-land>

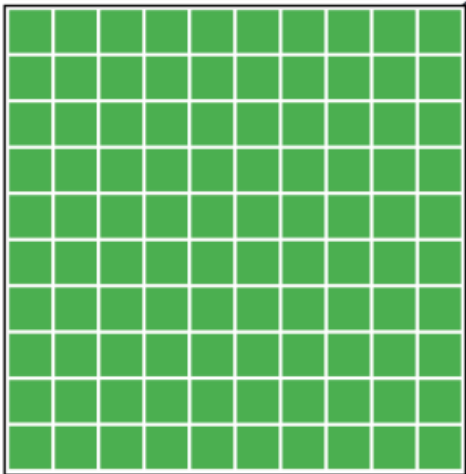
MIDDLE EAST

Israel's illegal seizure of Palestinian land

In 2024, Israel has illegally claimed 23.7sq km (9.15sq miles) of Palestinian land, exceeding the total land seized over the past 20 years combined.



How big is 23.7sq km?



- 3,300 • football fields
- 1,250 • Colosseums in Rome
- 322 ■ White House grounds
- 17 ■ Hyde Parks in London
- 7 ■ Central Parks in New York City



Source: Peace Now | July 10, 2024

@AJLabs ALJAZEERA



HB1394 Ateto Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Philip Ateto

Position: FAV

Hello,

I am writing to strongly urge you to vote in favor of the HB1394 Civil Actions - Nonprofit Organizations - Unauthorized Support of Israeli Settlement Activity (Not On Our Dime Act). The Israeli settlements in the occupied territories in Palestine are illegal under international law and no non-profit should be able to use its funds, especially if it receives funds from our tax dollars to support these illegal settlements in any way.

In these times where U.S. and International Law are becoming increasingly irrelevant due to the illegal actions of our own government, it is incumbent to state and local governments to uphold the law. I hope you will find the courage to do so.

Respectfully,

Philip Ateto
District 30
Annapolis

For HB1394 - Prince George's 4 Palestine.pdf

Uploaded by: Raaheela Ahmed

Position: FAV



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

HB1394 Testimony-Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Samantha Faubert

Position: FAV

Hello Council Members,

I am in support of HB-1394 and protecting the free speech of businesses to boycott and engage in business with whomever they wish to. In light of the increase in killing of civilians because of the genocide and ethnic cleansing that is happening in Palestine, business have a moral duty to not give money to those committing the heinous acts which is the Israeli government and settlers in the West Bank.

Thank you for your time,
Samantha Faubert

HB1394-SWASC.docx .pdf

Uploaded by: UM SWASC

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1394
Civil Actions - Nonprofit Organizations - Unauthorized Support of Israeli Settlement
Activity (Not on Our Dime Act)
Judiciary Committee
March 5, 2025

Social Work Advocates for Social Change strongly supports HB 1394, which will prohibit nonprofit organizations in Maryland from engaging in or supporting activities that contribute to Israeli settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and which are banned under the Geneva Conventions. If a nonprofit is found in violation, the Maryland Secretary of State is mandated to remove it from the state's Registry of Charitable Solicitation. The bill outlines prohibited actions, such as facilitating the movement of Israeli civilians into these areas, engaging in violence against protected persons, annexing Palestinian land, damaging property, or obstructing access to vital resources by the Israeli government or citizens. In the event of a violation, the Maryland Attorney General or an affected party may pursue legal action against the nonprofit, seeking damages and attorney's fees. **This bill provides a crucial avenue for legal recourse to those harmed by illegal Israeli land annexation and settler violence in the West Bank.**

As social workers in the state of Maryland, we are committed to upholding the core values of our vocation, including social justice and human dignity. These principles compel us to oppose actions that perpetuate inequality, displacement, and harm to vulnerable communities. Thus, we believe it is our ethical responsibility to advocate in favor of this bill.

Nonprofit organizations in Maryland mustn't support activities that violate international law, as such actions undermine global efforts to promote peace, justice, and human rights. The UN General Assembly, in a September 2024 resolution, urged states to refrain from recognizing or supporting Israel's unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,¹ echoing the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) advisory opinion that declared the Occupation illegal.² Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, violate international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, and contribute to the displacement of Palestinian communities, land

¹ Mishra, V. (2024, September 18). UN General Assembly demands Israel end 'unlawful presence' in Occupied Palestinian Territory. United Nations. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/09/1154496>

² United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). (2024, September 13). Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. UN Doc A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1. <https://docs.un.org/en/A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1>

confiscation, and denial of basic rights.³ By prohibiting Maryland-based nonprofits from enabling these activities, this bill ensures the state is not complicit in violations of international law and aligns with global calls for accountability and justice.

Passing this bill would create a meaningful avenue for individuals and communities harmed by illegal Israeli settlements to seek justice and compensation when these settlements are funded or supported by nonprofits in Maryland. Illegal settlements have caused significant harm to Palestinian families and communities, both material⁴ and psychological.⁵ By allowing affected individuals to bring legal action against nonprofits that fund illegal settlements, the bill empowers those who have suffered to hold accountable the organizations enabling these injustices. This not only offers a measure of redress for victims but also reinforces Maryland's commitment to upholding human rights, accountability, and the rule of law on a global scale.

Maryland nonprofits enjoy tax exemptions designed to benefit the public, not to fund or enable actions that contribute to human rights abuses or illegal occupations. By barring nonprofits from financially supporting Israeli settlement activities, this bill ensures that tax benefits are not inadvertently used to sustain practices deemed unlawful by international authorities, including the United Nations and the International Court of Justice (ICJ). This measure strengthens accountability and guarantees that tax-exempt status is granted only to organizations that uphold charitable principles.

Social Work Advocates for Social Change urges a favorable report on HB 1394.

Social Work Advocates for Social Change is a coalition of MSW students at the University of Maryland School of Social Work that seeks to promote equity and justice through public policy, and to engage the communities impacted by public policy in the policymaking process.

³ Amnesty International. (2019, January 30). Israeli settlements and international law. Destination: Occupation. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2019/01/chapter-3-israeli-settlements-and-international-law/>

⁴ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The humanitarian impact of Israeli settlement activities. https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/israeli_settlement_activities.pdf; Reevell, P. & Davies, G. (2023, December 19). Palestinians flee villages as settler violence surges in West Bank amid war. ABC News. <https://abcnews.go.com/International/palestinians-flee-villages-settler-violence-surges-west-bank/story?id=105579013>

⁵ Bosqui, T., et al. (2024). Psychological and social suffering of another generation of Palestinian children living under occupation: An urgent call to advocate. <https://www.hhrjournal.org/2024/05/24/psychological-and-social-suffering-of-another-generation-of-palestinian-children-living-under-occupation-an-urgent-call-to-advocate/>

HB1394.pdf

Uploaded by: Zainab Chaudry

Position: FAV



Council on American-Islamic Relations

CAIR Office in Maryland

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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

Testimony in Favor for HB1394 (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Zyad Khan

Position: FAV

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.

HB 1394 Not on Our Dime Act.pdf

Uploaded by: deborah miller

Position: UNF



Testimony in OPPOSITION to *House Bill 1394 –*
Civil Actions – Nonprofit Organizations – Unauthorized Support of Israeli
Settlement Activity (Not on Our Dime Act)
Judiciary Committee
March 5, 2025

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish organizations and synagogues throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on mutual respect, justice and equity. We work throughout the region to advocate for our agencies that serve the most vulnerable residents on a nonsectarian basis residents and to campaign for important policy interests on behalf of the Jewish community and all Marylanders.

The JCRC strongly opposes House Bill 1394 which prohibits nonprofits from working with the Government of Israel and Israelis who support “settlement activity.” The Bill demonizes and delegitimizes Israel, focusing on certain activities and alleged violence that is not unique to Israel, yet singles it out. The language of HB 1394 is dangerous and misleading, criminalizing support for the mere presence of Jews in areas where they have lived for thousands of years. The Bill also is overly broad. It gives the Maryland Secretary of State power to revoke a nonprofit’s status and the Attorney General power to sue a nonprofit and its officers for damages of not less than \$1 million and with a statute of limitation of ten years.

House Bill 1394 promotes an agenda that is harmful to Israelis, Palestinians, and Marylanders, by taking action against charitable organizations which are actually delivering critical services and humanitarian aid to the region. The language of the Bill demonstrates a lack of understanding of the history and dynamics of the region. It refers to East Jerusalem as “occupied territory” although the most holy sites in Judaism including the Old City and Western Wall are in East Jerusalem. Instead of working towards a peaceful resolution to the conflict in the region, HB 1394 undermines those efforts and only causes more harm and fuels more hatred and division. For these reasons, we ask for an unfavorable report on HB 1394.

Oppose HB1394.pdf

Uploaded by: Mark Meyerovich

Position: UNF

OPPOSE HB1394

Dear Chair Clippinger and the Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1394, which seeks to prohibit nonprofit organizations from supporting Israeli settlement activity. This bill is a misguided attempt to isolate Israel and undermine its legitimate efforts to protect its citizens and ensure the survival of the State of Israel.

As you are aware, Israel is a democratic nation with a right to self-defense and self-preservation. The bill's focus on Israeli settlement activity ignores the broader context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the numerous security threats faced by Israel. It is essential to recognize that Israel's actions are not driven by a desire to expand its territory, but rather to protect its citizens and maintain the integrity of its borders.

It is worth noting that other countries, including Russia, India, China, and Turkey, have pursued similar goals of protecting their citizens and maintaining national security without facing international condemnation. For example, India has maintained a robust military presence in Kashmir to protect its citizens from separatist groups, while China has taken steps to consolidate its control over the disputed territories of Tibet and Xinjiang. Turkey, meanwhile, has maintained a military presence in northern Cyprus to protect its interests and ensure the security of its citizens.

In contrast, Israel is subject to a unique and disproportionate level of scrutiny and criticism. The bill's focus on Israeli settlement activity is a prime example of this double standard. By singling out Israel for criticism, while ignoring similar actions by other nations, we risk creating a perception of bias and hypocrisy.

Furthermore, the bill's provisions, which would allow the Attorney General to bring an action against non-profit organizations that support Israeli settlement activity, raise serious concerns about the erosion of free speech and the chilling effect on charitable giving. This could lead to a chilling effect on the exercise of free speech and the ability of nonprofit organizations to engage in advocacy and education on issues related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In conclusion, I urge you to reject House Bill 1394 and instead focus on promoting a more balanced and nuanced approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. By doing so, we can work towards a more just and peaceful resolution to this complex issue, rather than perpetuating a misguided and counterproductive approach that seeks to isolate and demonize Israel.

Sincerely,
Mark Meyerovich
Gaithersburg, MD

HB1394 Not on my dime act.pdf

Uploaded by: Meredith Weisel

Position: UNF



**Maryland General Assembly
House Judiciary Committee
March 5, 2025**

Testimony of Meredith R. Weisel
ADL Vice President, State and Local Advocacy

ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) is pleased to submit this testimony in strong **opposition** to ***House Bill 1394, Civil Actions – Nonprofit Organizations – Unauthorized Support of Israeli Settlement Activity (Not on Our Dime Act)***.

Since 1913, the mission of ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) has been to “stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all.” As a leading anti-hate organization, for decades one of the most important ways in which ADL has fought against bigotry and antisemitism has been by investigating extremist threats across the ideological spectrum, producing research to inform the public, and working with law enforcement, educators, the tech industry, and elected leaders to promote best practices to effectively address and counter these threats. Further, ADL conducts an annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents, which is widely used by law enforcement, educational institutions, elected officials, and the community at large to not only respond to antisemitic incidents, but also to create change.

HB1394 has been rightfully questioned by many in the community, and we urge this body to oppose this dangerous bill as leaders of the Maryland General Assembly. We have grave concerns that this bill targets nonprofits doing important work here in Maryland and around the world. Its broad language could and likely would punish many Jewish and pro-Israel nonprofit organizations, calling for them to have actions taken against them by the Attorney General (AG). The AG could bring an action for injunctive relief and damages against a director, officer, partner, trustee, manager, or any other agent of the nonprofit who is found in violation. Further, it states the AG may be allowed to seek not less than one million dollars in damages. The bill goes even further in that it would allow an individual not just the Attorney General the ability to seek injunctive relief and damages against the organization and all the named parties above. Finally, it allows the AG or prevailing plaintiff to remove the nonprofit from the registry of charitable solicitation.

This bill risks eliminating a huge swath of Jewish communal nonprofits, including those that do humanitarian and life-saving work. We are extremely concerned that this bill would divide Marylanders and distract them from the important issues we face in our state every day. We are asking you to recognize this harm and speak out against this bill. Another large concern is that the bill’s language seeks to inject Maryland enforcement authorities as arbiters in an international conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. Though the bill’s title would suggest that its focus is on “settler violence” in Israel, its overly broad language could arguably sweep up and impose severe penalties on many Jewish and pro-Israel nonprofit organizations (including their directors, officers

and employees) doing critical humanitarian work far removed from the conduct described in the bill.

Regardless of intent, this bill will also necessarily have a chilling effect on the work of these charitable organizations and the willingness of individuals to lead or work for them. We are deeply familiar with the complex issues surrounding Israel, and we are fierce advocates for dialogue that advances peace in the Middle East, including the two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This bill does not achieve that goal. Instead, it sows greater division among Marylanders and distracts from the important work that our legislators do for our state each and every day.

**We urge the House Judiciary Committee to give
HB1394 an unfavorable report.**

Agudah Testimony - HB 1394 - Israel Dime - Oppose.

Uploaded by: Rabbi Ariel Sadwin

Position: UNF



HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 1394

**CIVIL ACTIONS - NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS - UNAUTHORIZED SUPPORT OF
ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY (NOT ON OUR DIME ACT)**

MARCH 5, 2025

OPPOSE

Agudath Israel of Maryland, the Mid-Atlantic regional office for Agudath Israel of America – a renowned national Jewish advocacy organization with chapters across the country - speaks on behalf of the Orthodox Jewish communities across Maryland. Thousands of the members of our community have visited Israel, have lived in Israel, and/or have family members who live in Israel, and we speak on their behalf as well.

House Bill 1394 seeks to penalize nonprofit organizations if they engage in aiding or abetting certain activity by the government of Israel or a citizen of Israel relating to Israeli settlements. Jews lived in the West Bank, also known as Judea and Samaria, for thousands of years, and many of Judaism's holiest sites are located there. After the country of Jordan seized the area during the War of Israeli Independence, Jordan expelled all Jews (roughly seventeen thousand souls) from the area. Only after the Six Day War, when Israel successfully defeated a Jordanian attack and managed to expel Jordanian forces from the area, were Jews once allowed into the area. (To this day, Jews are unable to reside in areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority.) Included in this area is much of Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount and the Western Wall, which are considered the holiest place on Earth in the Jewish tradition.

House Bill 1394 is merely another attempt to continue to unfairly demonize Israel. House Bill 1394 assumes that Israelis should not be allowed to establish residence in some of Judaism's most holy places, and nonprofits supporting a Jewish presence in areas such as the Western Wall (!) should be punished. We urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 1394. Thank you.

HB1394 oppose Civil Actions - Nonprofit Organizat

Uploaded by: Sarah Miicke

Position: UNF

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Temple Beth Shalom
Temple Isaiah
Zionist Organization of America
Baltimore District

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

**House Bill 1394 Civil Actions - Nonprofit Organizations - Unauthorized
Support of Israeli Settlement Activity (Not on Our Dime Act)**

Judiciary Committee

March 5, 2025

OPPOSE

Background: House Bill 1394 (HB1394) seeks to revoke the tax-exempt status of nonprofits that support Israel as defined in the bill. Though the bill's title would suggest that its focus is on "settler violence" in Israel, its overly broad language could arguably sweep up and impose severe penalties on many Jewish and pro-Israel nonprofit organizations (including their directors, officers, and employees) doing critical humanitarian work far removed from the conduct described in the bill. This legislation unjustly targets one specific country (and Jewish nonprofits) when there are already laws in place to prevent not-for-profit organizations from engaging in illegal activity. The legislation would allow anyone to sue an organization for violating the proposed legislation, not just the government or the Maryland Attorney General. This opens the floodgates for lawsuits from anyone with a political agenda, regardless of any merit the lawsuit may have.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council (BJC) represents The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore, all of its agencies, as well as the organized Jewish Community of Greater Baltimore. We are adamantly opposed to this ill-informed bill which targets the only Jewish State in the world and Jewish nonprofit organizations. There are thousands of nonprofits that the bill sponsor, the BJC, and anyone may not support, but does that mean we should start taking away the 501c3 status of any organization that any legislator finds offensive?

In the United States, you may disagree with the purposes of the The National Right to Life Educational Foundation Inc. (pro-life advocacy), Vdare Foundation (an anti-immigrant and white supremacist hate group), and/or the Alliance Defending Freedom (American conservative Christian legal advocacy group advocating against the LGBTQ+ community and others), but this bill does not target those groups. You may also oppose the business relationships U.S. nonprofits have with foreign authoritarian regimes and dictators, like the U.S.-Russia Business Council and/or U.S. China Business Council, but this bill does not target these nonprofits. Instead, this bill focuses on the only Democracy in the Middle East and the only Jewish state in world, and Jewish nonprofits.

BALTIMORE JEWISH COUNCIL

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Member of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Baltimore Jewish Council is an agency of The Associated

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Zionist Organization of America
 Baltimore District

We are deeply familiar with the complex issues surrounding Israel, and we are fierce advocates for dialogue that advances peace in the Middle East. This bill does not achieve that goal. Instead, it sows greater division among Marylanders and distracts from the important work that our legislators do for our state each day.

For these reasons, we urge an unfavorable report on HB1394.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.