

**Favorable Testimony In Support of HB1455: State Retirement and Pension System – Divestment From Israel**

Dear Chair Barnes and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

I am submitting this testimony to urge the House Appropriations Committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 1455. Our state's retirement and pension system holds millions of dollars in Israeli bonds. This money creates critical financial support for Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza, as well as attacks on people in the West Bank. Our pension system should reflect Maryland's values. Further, supporting Israel's oppression of Palestinians violates the pension system's commitment to socially responsible investing.

I am a lifelong Maryland resident, and I do not want my taxes invested in genocide. Instead, our tax dollars should support our communities, educational systems, and climate resilience. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report for HB1455.

Liz Cabrera Holtz  
12022 Coldstream Drive  
Potomac, MD 20854