

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

Dear Chair Barnes and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

I strongly urge the House Appropriations Committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 1455, and to do all it can to encourage the Maryland's State Retirement and Pension System to divest from Israeli bonds.

My support for HB1455 is both moral — like many others, I have been disgusted and ashamed at mountains of evidence of war crimes and genocide committed by the Israeli military with my federal and state tax dollars — and financial — Israel's credit rating was in sharp decline even before its latest US-supported war.

I am deeply moved by the title of Omar El Akkad's recent book — “One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This.” Don't wait to make your name known on the right side of history — choose to divest from war and genocide, issue a favorable report on HB1455.

Thank you for your service and your courage,  
Mikayla Lytton  
Maryland Resident