

From:
Tyler McClenithan
218 W Montgomery Ave
Rockville MD 20850

To:
Maryland General Assembly
CC: Appropriations Committee
100 State Circle
Annapolis MD 21401

Subject: Regarding HB 1455

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Tyler McClenithan. I'm writing support full adaptation of HB1455.

I've been living in Maryland for 13 years, rented several properties, made life-long friends, went to grad school, teach at a public college, bought a home, fostered children, adopted my daughter, sent her to public schools, volunteered for the PTA, Rockville Senior Shoveling Program, and for the Rockville Civic Ballet Program. I've had birthday parties at your parks and rec centers, got countless books from the libraries, hiked and biked almost every mile of trails, and attended almost every festival there is. I don't mention any of this to toot my own horn but to demonstrate that I LOVE Maryland and I'm deeply invested in its success and community.

I'm writing today to strongly encourage the body to completely divest from Israeli Bonds. It has been well documented that the government of Israel is actively committing a genocide against the Palestinian people. By investing in Israeli Bonds, the State of Maryland Pension system is directly encouraging and benefitting from this genocide, making our hands just as bloody as the IDF soldiers on the front lines. Divestment from Israeli Bonds makes a statement that Marylanders do not support this genocide and could encourage the government of Israel to change its behavior in order to attract more investment.

Beyond this, the world's leading credit agencies continue to downgrade the quality of Israeli bonds. This means that these investments continue to put Maryland's retirees and public servants at risk of losing money on their investments.

Investing is a way the state can use it's power to push the world in the direction of the values it espouses to. Does the government of Israel align with your values right now? I hope it does not! If not, I'd encourage you to reconsider the investment priorities of the Maryland pension system into markets and businesses that align with our values as Marylanders. Just because something makes "financial sense" doesn't mean it makes moral sense.

Please keep in mind morals as you guide your investment strategy in the future. Please support HB 1455.

Thank you for your consideration,
Tyler