

As a Jewish state employee with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, I am urging the delegates to support and advance HB1455.

Every day I watch footage of the Israeli regime dropping bombs on Lebanese neighborhoods, coercing the US military into beginning a war in Iran, supporting settlers in the West Bank who strong arm Palestinians out of their homes. I learn of these horrors with the full knowledge and understanding that I am personally funding these despicable actions with my retirement savings. Every time I receive a paycheck, I am funding these crimes. It disgusts me. I am asking the delegates to ensure that I do not feel that same disgust every time I draw from my pension. I don't want my comfort as a retiree to be paid for in the blood of the Levant.

Beyond the human rights violations in Gaza & the West Bank, Lebanon, and in Trump's war with Iran, I see news alerts that Israeli's credit rating has been downgraded repeatedly for years. Learning that the MSRP has continued to make investments in Israeli sovereign bonds despite these warnings that it is a risky bet indicates a lapse of fiduciary judgment – and maybe an indication of some other political decision making.

My retirement savings are not a political token – it is time to divest.