

Prepared Testimony of Jade Sim
8312 Berry Pl. Laurel MD, 20723
Before the Economic Matters Committee
February 16, 2026

Opposition to Senate Bill 4: Keeping Charities Nonpartisan Act of 2026

Dear State Senator Guzzone and Delegates Moreno, Terrasa, and Guzzone:

My name is Jade Sim, I am a constituent from Laurel and an active member of New Hope Church in Columbia, Maryland. As a young believer pursuing my faith in this generation of America, I am pleading that you vote NO on SB 4 in committee and on the floor.

This bill is an unconstitutional assault on religious liberty, free speech, and the autonomy of churches and faith-based charities. Churches should not be punished for preaching and teaching on candidates, elections, and the ideas that shape our public life. As a college student, it's been everything but easy to diligently pursue my calling as a genuine Christ follower. However, my pastors at New Hope Church relentlessly encourage our young generation to be victorious in our walk with Christ - in every and all aspects of our life. What is the most important form of literacy in our duties as American citizen if not political?

If churches and religious organizations are to be imposed civil fines and retained tax exemptions for any "participation or intervention" in a political campaign for or against a candidate, that is not freedom. Is not the essence of a democracy participation? If so, then what is a church but a body of individual Christ followers who are united through constitutionally protected beliefs?

The pulpit is not a threat to politics, but a guiding lens for individual people striving to follow Christ and his Word. New Hope Church and every God-fearing church in America has the right to address political conversations as acknowledged by a July 2025 consent judgment of the Johnson Amendment.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge that you oppose SB 4 and protect the freedoms that matter deeply to students and religious communities like mine. Thank you for your time and attention, may God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Jade Sim

Laurel, Maryland

