



**Testimony in OPPOSITION to *House Bill 1382* –  
*State Procurement – Prohibited Certifications – Boycotts of Foreign Countries*  
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee  
March 11, 2026**

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish organizations, synagogues and schools throughout the region. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on mutual respect, justice, equity and safety. We work throughout the region to advocate for our agencies that serve the most vulnerable residents on a non-sectarian basis and to campaign for important policy interests on behalf of the Jewish community and all Marylanders.

The JCRC strongly opposes House Bill 1382 which prohibits state contractors from being required to not engage in a boycott of a foreign country or to refrain from a boycott for the duration of the contract. This Bill essentially is intended to undermine Maryland's 2017 anti-BDS Executive Order, which prohibits contractors from doing business with the state unless they certify that they will not engage in a boycott of Israel during the duration of the contract. We are grateful that the Hogan administration's Order remains in place and that the current Moore Administration remains firmly opposed to the Boycott Divestment Sanctions movement (BDS).

Maryland is one of 38 states which have passed bills and executive orders designed to discourage boycotts of Israel. Many of them have been passed with broad bipartisan support. BDS seeks to delegitimize and demonize the State of Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East. Israel is not only a long-time ally of the United States, but it is also a critical economic partner to our nation and to Maryland where it provides hundreds of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in revenues. Given the current looming deficit that the state faces, Israel's investment in our economy is essential.

The language of HB 1382 is dangerous and misleading in its vagueness and broad strokes, trying to mask its intention to dismantle Maryland's ban on boycotts of Israel. This Bill is completely counterproductive as we are confronting unprecedented and unacceptable levels of anti-Israel rhetoric and antisemitism across the country and in Maryland post October 7<sup>th</sup>. We need to find opportunities for peace and dialogue. HB 1382 undermines those efforts and only causes more harm and fuels more hatred and division. For these reasons, we ask for an unfavorable report on HB 1382.

