

March 9, 2026

2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB1382 – An Act Concerning
2 State Procurement – Prohibited Certifications – Boycotts of Foreign Countries**

Good afternoon. My name is Riona Sheikh, and I am a student at the University of Maryland, College Park, and the Executive Vice President of UMD's Student Government Association. I am here to express my strong support for this bill that prevents the State from passing laws that may infringe on Constitutionally protected free speech.

I do not believe it is a risk that the state of Maryland should take to prevent State agencies from exercising their right to choose which companies and industries to invest in. This could very well infringe on said agencies' First Amendment protected free speech. I find it deeply concerning that such an Executive Order exists — and I feel that its exclusivity to the state of Israel raises questions about the intent behind the Order. The stubborn steps taken to protect a country accused of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity are very alarming.

As the tide shifts, many of you who would today vote against this bill may regret your decision in the coming months. Your reputation, once protected by your undying support of Israel, will now be marred and irreparable for the very same support.

Therefore, I urge each and every one of you to vote in favor of House Bill 1382.

Thank you.