



**Maryland General Assembly
House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
March 11, 2026**

Testimony of Tali Cohen
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ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) is pleased to submit this written testimony in strong **opposition** to *House Bill 1382, State Procurement – Prohibited Certifications – Boycotts of Foreign Countries*.

As a leading anti-hate organization committed to stopping the defamation of the Jewish people and securing justice and fair treatment for all, we have grave concerns about the impact of this bill, which would repeal former Governor Larry Hogan’s 2017 Executive Order No. 01.01.2017.25. Further, it would prohibit procurement officers from requiring certifications that contractors do not participate in boycotts of Israel.

The Executive Order ensured that state funds and contracts are not used to support or legitimize the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. BDS is an international campaign that seeks to delegitimize and pressure Israel by isolating it diplomatically, financially, professionally, academically and culturally. This isolation targets Israel, Israeli individuals, Israeli institutions, and Jews who support Israel's right to exist. In practice, the global BDS movement seeks to dismantle the Jewish state and end the right to Jewish national self-determination in Israel.

The BDS campaign does not support constructive measures to build Israeli-Palestinian engagement, nor does it promote peace negotiations or a mutually negotiated two-state solution to the conflict. Rather, BDS presents a biased and simplistic approach to the complex Israeli-Palestinian conflict, positioning this dispute over territorial and nationalist claims as the fault of only one party – Israel – while ignoring other actors and dynamics. By delegitimizing one party in complex conflicts, divestment makes peaceful resolutions more difficult to achieve.

As of 2024, thirty-eight states, including Maryland, had taken action discouraging BDS activity, upholding principles of nondiscrimination and ensuring that taxpayer dollars do not fund discriminatory boycotts singling out the Jewish state and, by extension, Jewish communities. HB1382 would be a backwards step, placing Maryland at odds with the national consensus.

During a time of rising antisemitism and heightened division, this bill sends the wrong message.

**We accordingly urge the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee to give
HB1382 an unfavorable report.**