

From: Shubh Agnihotri  
To: Members of the House Government, Labor and Elections Committee  
03/09/2026  
RE: HB1382 - FAVORABLE

Members of the House Government, Labor and Elections Committee, my name is Shubh Agnihotri and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Maryland, College Park.

It is long past time for us to enact legislation overturning former Governor Larry Hogan's unconstitutional anti-BDS executive order. Companies and businesses that do business in the State of Maryland should not be scared to cut ties with any foreign country. A country engaged in the active genocide of a people being protected by our state government is an embarrassment to the entire state.

More than 40 years ago, Maryland helped lead the country in divestment from South African apartheid. Let us not backslide on our morals when the right side of this issue has been defined so long ago. Apartheid anywhere is an injustice to people everywhere. An apartheid Israel must be condemned just the same as apartheid South Africa. Businesses engaged in boycotts of Israel should receive our critical support, not economic disincentives.

The government of Israel is cruel and barbaric in its conduct towards Palestinians. There is no question that they treat Palestinians as second class citizens. There is no question that they are committing genocide in Gaza. A government that does not follow our laws should not have laws in our state that go so far as to violate the constitution of the US to protect them. The shielding of the state of Israel by Maryland must end, starting with reaffirming simple first amendment protections in our state law.

I urge a favorable committee report on HB1382. Thank you for your work on the Government, Labor and Elections Committee and for your consideration of this testimony.