



## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

### **State Procurement - Prohibited Certifications - Boycotts of Foreign Countries**

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

March 19, 2026

Dear Chair Wells and Members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee,

The Maryland Legislative Jewish Caucus, a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates, opposes **HB1382, State Procurement - Prohibited Certifications - Boycotts of Foreign Countries**, and urges the Committee to issue an unfavorable report.

This legislation would remove the current requirement that all companies seeking State contracts affirm that they are not currently partaking in, and will not engage in, a boycott of a foreign country. In doing so, this legislation removes an important safeguard designed to protect citizens from anti-discriminatory practices while paving the way for politicized decision-making in state contracting. This bill could set a dangerous precedent for future contracting and state oversight policies, negatively impacting individuals, businesses, and communities.

Additionally, this legislation creates misalignment with federal policy. Federal policy discourages participation in boycotts of U.S. allies, and by eliminating this requirement in Maryland, an inconsistency is created that could spark both confusion and legal challenges.

Rather than addressing a specific need or improving current procurement processes, HB1382 removes existing safeguards without any meaningful benefit, instead introducing new risks and concerns, including undermining Maryland's anti-discrimination policies and weakening protections for vulnerable communities.

For these reasons, we urge an unfavorable report on HB1382.

Sincerely,

Shelly Hettleman  
Co-Chair  
Maryland Jewish Legislative Caucus

Jared Solomon  
Co-Chair  
Maryland Jewish Legislative Caucus