

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

Maryland General Assembly

Submitted by: Amilynn Adams

Brunswick, Maryland. Frederick County.

I am a Maryland resident and a constituent of the resolution sponsor submitting testimony in opposition to House Joint Resolution 1. I want to be unambiguous at the outset: political violence is an abomination. The murder of Charlie Kirk was wrong. No one should be killed for their speech, their beliefs, or their politics. That condemnation is easy, and it is right.

What is not acceptable is what this resolution does alongside that condemnation: it asks the Maryland General Assembly to honor Charlie Kirk as a champion of civil discourse, a defender of constitutional principles, and a model for young Americans. That characterization is not a tribute. It is a falsification of the historical record, and the Maryland legislature should not attach its name to it.

The resolution describes Kirk as someone who engaged in "respectful, civil discourse" and worked to "foster understanding." This bears no relationship to his documented public record. Researchers and journalists who study political violence use the term "stochastic terrorism" to describe rhetoric that does not explicitly call for violence but deliberately and systematically dehumanizes targeted groups, creating the statistical conditions in which violence against them becomes inevitable. Charlie Kirk was a stochastic terrorist. His debate style was not the Socratic exchange this resolution pretends it was. It was a sustained, monetized project of dehumanization aimed at the most vulnerable people in American life.

The primary targets of that project were transgender people. Kirk built his media platform and his organization, Turning Point USA, in significant part on escalating anti-transgender rhetoric that was not fringe commentary but central to his brand. The public record includes Kirk calling transgender people "a throbbing middle finger to God" and "an abomination." It includes him invoking Leviticus 20:13, the biblical verse prescribing death for gay men, as "God's perfect law when it comes to sexual matters," on a 2024 podcast episode. It includes him calling for transgender people to be handled "the way we used to take care of things in the 1950s and 60s," language critics and researchers have characterized as an implicit reference to forced institutionalization and conversion practices. It includes him calling for "Nuremberg-style" accountability trials for physicians who provide gender-affirming care. It includes Turning Point USA actively cultivating and funding candidates who advance anti-transgender legislation across multiple states.

Medical research consistently shows that gender-affirming care improves outcomes for transgender people. Out of 55 peer-reviewed studies surveyed by researchers, not one found that gender transition produces negative outcomes. Kirk did not simply disagree with this evidence. He built a movement premised on suppressing it and punishing the medical professionals who act on it.

Transgender people were not his only targets. The same documented pattern of dehumanization extended to women, Black Americans, and immigrants. On his own podcast, Kirk said of Michelle Obama, Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, Joy Reid, and Sheila Jackson Lee that they did not have "the brain processing power to otherwise be taken really seriously" and had to "go steal a white person's slot to go be taken somewhat seriously." Those words are timestamped and verified. He described "prowling Blacks" going out to "target white people for fun." He called the Civil Rights Act of 1964 "a mistake" and described Martin Luther King Jr. as "awful" and "a bad guy," confirming those characterizations in writing to the journalist who asked him. On immigrants, he trafficked in replacement theory, framing desperate people seeking safety as an existential threat to white Christian America. These were not isolated provocations. They were the architecture of a worldview, repeated and amplified across years of broadcasts, campus events, and Turning Point USA programming.

This resolution calls upon all Marylanders to "recommit to respectful debate" in Kirk's name. That call is not just hollow. It is an insult to every Marylander who belongs to a community Charlie Kirk spent his career marking for hatred. Words like his do not stay in the abstract. They shape policy, animate legislation, and create the social conditions in which transgender people face violence, homelessness, and denial of medical care at rates far exceeding the general population. That is what stochastic terrorism does. It does not pull the trigger. It builds the climate.

I am not asking this body to condemn Charlie Kirk or to celebrate his death. I am asking this body to decline to launder his legacy. The Maryland General Assembly can and should oppose political violence. It does not need to do so by misrepresenting who Charlie Kirk was and what he stood for.

Please rebuke Delegate Pippi's brazen attempt to memorialize and normalize Charlie Kirk's stochastic terroristic rhetoric and vote no on HJR 1.