



**Testimony in OPPOSITION to *House Joint Resolution 9 –  
Condemning Violence and Violations of Law - Democratic Republic of the  
Congo, Gaza, and Sudan***  
**Rules and Executive Nominations Committee**  
**March 9, 2026**

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish organizations and synagogues throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on freedom, equity, justice, and pluralism. We advocate for our agencies that serve the most vulnerable residents on a non-sectarian basis, and through our coalition building, educational programming, and extensive interfaith outreach, we work to promote tolerance, inclusivity and understanding.

The JCRC is strongly opposed to House Joint Resolution 9 – *Condemning Violence and Violations of Law - Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gaza, and Sudan*. First, this Resolution is rife with falsehoods and misinformation and lacks a basic understanding of the complexities and nuances of the conflict in Gaza. It is unconscionable and disingenuous to discuss military operations, death and destruction in Gaza, and risk of genocide, without referencing the initial massacre of Israelis and then hostage taking by Hamas terrorists on October 7, 2023. These actions constitute crimes against humanity and violations of international law. Furthermore, in its own charter, Hamas has expressed its genocidal intent toward Israelis and Jews worldwide. HJ Resolution 9 incorrectly states that there were 70,000 civilian deaths. It is also egregious in its failure to note that Hamas hides among civilians and launches attacks from homes, hospitals, schools, and places of worship.

Second, this Resolution is not in the purview of Maryland. It is not the State's role to be wading into international affairs. Maryland needs to focus on Maryland – education, the environment, transportation, commerce and a balanced budget. State lawmakers are close to the ground on those issues; they have expertise and advisors on those issues; they know this community better than anyone else – and they are best situated to ensure that Maryland thrives in these concrete ways. Our federal representatives tackle international

affairs. They receive security briefings on ongoing negotiations and are responsible for pursuing peace and security around the world.

Finally, this Resolution does the opposite of promoting stability and goodwill and creating community and civility here in Maryland. Instead, it sparks division and perpetuates hatred against the Jewish community during a period of unprecedented, relentless and violent antisemitism. For these reasons, the JCRC is opposed to House Joint Resolution 9.