



March 5, 2026

Testimony on HJ0009—Position: Favorable
Condemning Violence and Violations of Law—Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gaza, and
Sudan

TO: Chair Healey, Vice-Chair Holmes, and the members of the Rules and Executive Nominations
Committee

FROM: Karen Caplan, Silver Spring, MD 20902

My name is Karen Caplan. I am a resident of Maryland District 18 and I am writing on behalf of the Montgomery County Jewish Collective, an organization of Jewish-identifying residents of Montgomery County committed to collective liberation as the cornerstone of a vibrant, safe, and supportive Jewish community and a safe and equitable County and state for all.

We are glad that the committee is considering this resolution, and we are writing in support.

There is absolutely no doubt that we are currently seeing brutal violence and grave violations of human rights law and international law in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gaza, and Sudan. Many international organizations have reported that we are in fact seeing either genocide or the threat of it. As a Jewish organization rooted in the idea of collective liberation, we see it as an obligation to work to redress such wrongs. Many members of the Jewish community have spoken out strongly about the genocide in Gaza in particular. We believe that it is the responsibility of our elected leaders to do the same. While the Maryland General

Assembly does not, of course, carry out foreign policy, its members do represent many family members of those in danger abroad.

We urge you to add your voices to the widespread condemnation of violence against civilians and violations of law, and to vote in favor of this resolution.

Our Mission, Vision, and Values Statement [here](#).