

Public Testimony Opposing Maryland HJ0001

I am writing to express my opposition to HJ0001, the resolution honoring the life of Charlie Kirk.

While I do not support political violence of any kind and believe it should always be condemned, I question whether it is appropriate or necessary for the Maryland General Assembly to pass resolutions honoring national political figures who are not connected to Maryland or to the daily lives of its residents. Legislative time and attention should be focused on policies that directly affect the people of this state.

Resolutions such as HJ0001 risk turning the legislature into a platform for national political messaging rather than a body focused on governing Maryland. Whether someone agrees or disagrees with Mr. Kirk's views, elevating highly polarizing national figures through official state resolutions can deepen political division rather than promote unity.

Additionally, many residents are increasingly skeptical of political narratives that quickly develop around national incidents and are then repeated in political arenas. Rather than engaging in symbolic gestures tied to national political controversies, the Maryland General Assembly would better serve the public by focusing on issues within its direct responsibility—such as affordability, public safety, disabled individuals services, education, and government accountability.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to reject HJ0001 and keep the focus of Maryland's legislature on matters that directly impact the people of this state.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Thank you,
Kaylee Cooper