

HJ 0009: Condemning Violence and Violations of Law - Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gaza, and Sudan: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Rules & Executive Nominations Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **OPPOSE** House Joint Resolution 9 during committee consideration or floor votes.

While the suffering in these regions is tragic and deserving of attention, **state legislatures should not insert themselves into complex foreign policy and international conflict issues that are properly the responsibility of the federal government and the U.S. Congress. Resolutions like this are symbolic gestures that carry no legal force but can be misinterpreted as Maryland taking official positions on highly contentious geopolitical matters**—particularly the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Gaza—where narratives, facts, and proposed solutions are deeply disputed.

Maryland's General Assembly should focus on state-level priorities: education, public safety, economic development, infrastructure, health care, and fiscal responsibility. Adopting resolutions on foreign conflicts diverts time and attention from these critical issues affecting Maryland residents directly. It also politicizes the legislative process, alienating constituents who hold differing views on these international matters.

The federal government already has multiple channels—diplomatic, congressional, and executive—for addressing violence and humanitarian crises abroad. State-level resolutions add little practical value and will create unnecessary division within the citizenry of Maryland.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote against HJ 0009** and oppose the General Assembly taking positions on foreign conflicts and international crises.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of my concerns regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals