

Testimony on House Bill 1184- Opposed/Unfavorable

Submitted by Cathy Stogel 3-9-26

Dear Honorable Committee Chair and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

As a resident of Howard County I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 1184 (Civil Actions - Nonprofit Organizations - Unauthorized Support of Israeli Settlement Activity).

This bill unfairly singles out organizations associated with a specific country (Israel) and its citizens, and clearly constitutes national origin discrimination and a violation of equal protection. It will create a "litmus test" for charities that is not applied to organizations working in other conflict zones or occupied territories globally.

It represents an inappropriate extension of state authority into sensitive international medical or political decisions.

This malicious bill infringes on first amendment rights by penalizing nonprofits for political expression or activities that are otherwise legal under U.S. federal law. The U.S. State Department has categorized Israel as a key counter-terrorism partner.

Please submit an unfavorable report on HB 1184

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