



## **TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1184 - FAVORABLE**

### **Civil Actions- Nonprofit Organizations-Unauthorized Support of Israel Settlement Activity (Not On Our Dime Act)**

**TO: Chair Bartlett, Vice-Chair Davis, and the members of the Judicial Committee, March 11, 2026**

Karen Caplan  
Silver Spring, MD

Dear Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee,

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 (MCJC), 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. MCJC urges this Committee's support for HB1185, which establishes civil actions against non-profit organizations in Maryland who provide support for illegal activities in Israeli settlements.

There is widespread agreement in the international community that many of the activities of Israeli settlements in lands that Israel occupies militarily—currently the West Bank and the Golan Heights— are illegal. This includes the illicit dispossession of and substantial indiscriminate violence against the Palestinians who reside there. This bill requires that any nonprofit that is registered with the State of Maryland comply with broadly recognized international law, and establishes civil consequences for those who do not.

The members of MCJC are committed to promoting actions that our jurisdictions can take to alleviate the subjugation of and violence toward Palestinians. In Maryland, one

way to do this is for the General Assembly to make a clear statement that the state will not allow organizations that it permits to operate in this state to violate established international law. We believe that it is our particular obligation as Jews to urge the Assembly to act, because too often, organizations that purport to represent us, as Jews, are inclined to support illegal settlement activities.

Our state should not be lending recognition and support to organizations that support activities that violate international law. We urge you to issue a positive report on HB1185.

*@mcjewishcollective on Facebook, Instagram, and Bluesky*

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