



**Maryland General Assembly
House Judiciary Committee
March 11, 2026**

Testimony of Tali Cohen

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ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) is pleased to submit this written testimony in strong **opposition** to *House Bill 1184, Civil Actions – Nonprofit Organizations – Unauthorized Support of Israeli Settlement Activity (Not on Our Dime Act)*.

As a leading anti-hate organization committed to stopping the defamation of the Jewish people and securing justice and fair treatment for all, we have grave concerns about the scope and impact of this bill. Despite claiming to focus on “Israeli settlement activity,” the bill as drafted ignores the current realities on the ground and could arguably sweep up and impose severe penalties on many Jewish and pro-Israel nonprofits doing important humanitarian and life-saving work domestically and abroad. Not only that, but the bill seeks to inappropriately interject Maryland enforcement authorities as arbiters in an international conflict and in a manner that would have a profound chilling effect on the work of many charitable organizations and the willingness of individuals to lead or work for them, particularly where the bill contemplates penalties of not less than \$1 million.

In light of our mission and decades of work to counter antisemitism, we are deeply familiar with the complex issues underlying the Israel-Hamas conflict, and we are fierce advocates for pathways to peace, including a two-state solution. We are extremely concerned that this bill does not advance that goal and would instead only serve to divide Marylanders and distract our Attorney General’s office from the important issues we face in our state every day.

For these reasons and others, lawmakers in New York overwhelmingly rejected a substantially similar proposal in 2023 as a “ploy to demonize Jewish charities with connections to Israel.” A cohort of nearly 48 lawmakers went so far as to describe the bill as one that “seeks to penalize non-profit entities that have any affiliation with the state of Israel and is effectively an attack on Jews and Israel.” They continued, “[W]e find this bill to be not only discriminatory but also deeply anti[s]emitic.” Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie told media at the time that the bill was a “non-starter,” and it did not advance. The same outcome should be supported here.

We accordingly urge the House Judiciary Committee to give HB1184 an unfavorable report.