



Dear Chair Bartlett and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) is the largest progressive anti-Zionist Jewish organization in the world with chapters in Baltimore, DC Metro Area, and Towson University. **The Baltimore and DC Metro chapters are submitting testimony in favor of HB 1184 (Not On Our Dime Act).**

HB 1184 would make it illegal for MD-registered charities to fund Israeli war crimes. The activities of the Israeli government, occupation of Palestine, continued violations of international law, and nonstop ceasefire violations, are in stark contrast to the high ethical standards we should expect of Maryland non-profit organizations.

MD-registered non-profit organizations receive tax breaks every year. The charitable registries associated with 501(c)(3) status are intended to ease the financial burden of serving our communities, not funding war crimes. We are in the midst of an affordability crisis. Many Marylanders are struggling to pay the rent, pay medical bills, and put food on the table. Their interests are certainly not served by our tax dollars funding genocide and apartheid as opposed to desperately needed community services. Furthering the extensive human rights violations against Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank and any nonprofit that upholds an apartheid state through its charitable programming should be held accountable. The nonprofit sector in Maryland is already incredibly strong and 1184 would serve to strengthen bonds between non-profits and the communities they serve – by demonstrating that our representatives will not allow tax-exempt funds to finance ongoing violence against Palestinians.

The Israeli government has consistently violated the October 2025 ceasefire and has already taken more than 72,000 Palestinian lives since October 2023. House Bill 1184 establishes the mechanism for legal action against nonprofit organizations that provide financial assistance to occupation, apartheid, and other violations of international and US human rights law.

We at JVP do not want our tax dollars to continue to aid and abet the genocide in Gaza and the theft of Palestinian homes. HB 1184 is crucial in preventing nonprofits from providing financial support that perpetuates Israel's apartheid state and for that reason we urge the committee to **return a favorable report on HB 1184.**