

The Honorable Chair
Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett
House Judiciary Committee
101 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: FAVORABLE - SUPPORT of House Bill 1184
Civil Actions - Nonprofit Organizations - Unauthorized Support of Israeli Settlement
Activity (Not On Our Dime Act)**

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

My name is Zoë, I am a resident of Frederick, Maryland. I am writing to name my support to HB 1184 the "Civil Actions - Nonprofit Organizations - Unauthorized Support of Israeli Settlement Activity (Not On Our Dime Act)" bill. This bill prohibits nonprofit organizations in Maryland from engaging in or supporting activities that contribute to Israeli settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and which are banned under the Geneva Conventions. This bill also establishes a level of accountability for nonprofits by enabling legal consequences for individuals harmed to pursue. Supporting this bill means holding nonprofit organizations to international law, upholding human rights and protections for affected communities.

It is my belief that tax-exempt organizations should not be able to fund or help in any action that violates international law as we see in the case of the occupied West Bank. As the ongoing Middle East violence expands and Israel moves to invade Lebanon, funding this expansionist territory only furthers the expansion of apartheid and forced occupation. We have a moral duty to ensure that Maryland entities do not support these efforts in alignment with the Geneva Conventions to prevent human rights violations, war crimes, continued displacement/disenfranchisement, and subjugation into an apartheid state.

Nonprofits are not exempt from this accountability. I support this bill because it provides the framework to facilitate dialogue with legal consequences to empower individuals to seek justice and compensation for damages and slow down/halt the illegal settlements.

For these reasons and many more, **I ask the Judiciary Committee to give HB 1184 a favorable report.**

Thank you for your time,
Zoë Dell
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