

Monday, March 9, 2026

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am a resident of Baltimore City and District 41. I am submitting testimony as a member of Sanctuary Maryland and Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) Baltimore, a national grassroots Jewish organization in support of Palestinian rights with over 10,000 supporters in Maryland, as well as chapters in Baltimore, the DC Metro area, and at University of Maryland College Park. I am testifying in **support of HB1184: Not On Our Dime Act.**

**As Marylanders, we do not want to support the Israeli government's merciless and seemingly never-ending acts of war and genocide against the Palestinian people.** The Israeli government has been actively carrying out genocidal violence against Palestinians for over two years, leading to **the deaths of over 72,000 Palestinians in Gaza since October 2023**, with independent estimates indicating the toll is significantly higher when including thousands missing under rubble. **Estimates indicate at least 20,000 of these deaths are children, with some reports estimating that over 40% of the fatalities in Gaza are children.**

Entire families, communities, hospitals, schools, cultural centers, and infrastructure in Gaza have been decimated by the Israeli government's violence against Palestinians, and there appears to be no true or lasting end in sight. As Marylanders we do not want to be complicit in this violence anymore. HB1184 would be a step in the right direction by prohibiting certain nonprofit organizations from aiding or abetting genocidal activity and war crimes perpetrated by the government of Israel.

This bill is necessary because **the ongoing Israeli government's assault on Gaza has spurred a proliferation of US-based "charitable" organizations fundraising to support the Israeli military and violent settlers.** Together, many of these US-based organizations have sent tens of millions of dollars to fund war crimes perpetrated by Israeli military units in Gaza and emboldened settlers violently expelling Palestinians from their homes and terrorizing Palestinian families and communities.

We are not opposed to international aid or cooperation or trade. By allowing these groups to masquerade as charities, Maryland is subsidizing Israel's illegal settlement expansion and state violence against Palestinians. **Our state's charities should fund the needs of Maryland communities, as well as other communities nationwide and worldwide, not war crimes and genocide.**

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to **support HB1184: Not On Our Dime Act.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Katherine Blaha  
Baltimore, MD 21209