

The Honorable Chair
Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins
House Ways and Means Committee
131 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: FAVORABLE - SUPPORT of House Bill 1202
Public Schools – Content Standards, Curriculum, and Bullying Policies – Culture and
History of Palestine**

To the Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and esteemed members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Eric Musa, I am a resident of Frederick, MD from district 3. I am writing to name my support for HB 1220 the “Public Schools – Content Standards, Curriculum, and Bullying Policies – Culture and History of Palestine” bill. This bill requires Maryland public schools to incorporate age-appropriate, fact-based Palestine cultural literacy into existing social studies, world history, civics, or multicultural education curricula beginning in the 2027-2028 school year. By teaching about Palestine’s history, we can help combat harmful stereotypes and encourage a safer environment for a diverse student body.

My family lived in Palestine under Ottoman and British rule more than 150 years ago. My grandfather and grandmother were expelled in the Nakba, along with 700,000 other Palestinians in 1949, never to return. The history of my family and our people are being erased, not just now in this war of revenge being perpetrated in Gaza, but for decades, slowly sweeping our culture under the rug. It fills me with a rare glimpse of hope to see that the history of our culture may be rekindled via curriculum in our schools, and I think ours is a very powerful cautionary tale of the dangers of modern colonialism and imperialism.

For these reasons and many more, **I ask the Ways and Means Committee to give HB 1220 a favorable report.**

Thank you for your time,
Eric Musa
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