

HB 656: Income, Sales and Use, and Property Taxes - Revocation of Exempt Status for Nonprofit Organizations for Supporting Terrorist Organizations: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Ways & Means Committee:

I am writing to respectfully **support HB 656**, concerning *Income, Sales and Use, and Property Taxes – Revocation of Exempt Status for Nonprofit Organizations for Supporting Terrorist Organizations*.

Tax-exempt status is a privilege granted to nonprofit organizations, because they are expected to serve legitimate charitable, educational, religious, or community purposes. Organizations that provide material support—directly or indirectly—to terrorist organizations fundamentally violate that trust and should not continue to benefit from favorable tax treatment.

Maryland taxpayers should not, even indirectly, subsidize entities that support activities threatening national security, public safety, or global stability. Revoking state tax-exempt status for organizations that engage in or support terrorism reinforces accountability and ensures that public resources are aligned with lawful and ethical conduct.

HB 656 helps safeguard the integrity of Maryland’s nonprofit sector by making clear that tax benefits are conditioned on compliance with the law and adherence to basic standards of public responsibility. This legislation strengthens oversight while protecting the reputation of the many legitimate nonprofits that faithfully serve our communities.

Ensuring that state tax policy does not inadvertently shield or benefit organizations tied to terrorism is both a security matter and a matter of principle.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **support HB 656**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals