

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 Zoë, I am a resident of Frederick, Maryland. 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.

Education is elevation and it is this bodies responsibility to make sure students have proper, equal access to the history and knowledge that will help them understand what is happening in front of their eyes. Students are not immune to the atrocities being conducted and live streamed to our phones. Particularly after the events at Walt Witman High School in January where the phrases “Nuke Palestine” and “F*** Muslims” were graffitied, it is our duty to provide it is critical for students to have the tools to fight against anti-Palestinian biases. A lack of educating students on the history of Palestine further encourages ignorance and hate, making our schools unsafe for students and abetting in the erasure of an entire population.

Kids have enough to deal with already with the attacks by ICE and wondering if their family members will be there when they get home. Dealing with discrimination at school on top of it makes one ask where can students be safe? Let’s change that.

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,
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