



2026

Maryland General Assembly



LEGISLATIVE

ROUND-UP

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LEGISLATIVE ROUND-UP



The 2026 Maryland General Assembly session came to a close with SINE DIE on Monday, April 13. As CAIR Maryland looks back on the 90 days of sustained advocacy, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who fought alongside us for meaningful change, including during grueling bill hearings in the holy month of Ramadan.

During this legislative session, CAIR supported or opposed and submitted oral and/or written testimony on 27 bills, delivered over 48,000 community emails on priority issues to state lawmakers' inboxes, and held or participated in several press conferences, rallies and vigils.

This session saw the historic launch of the Legislative Muslim Caucus, which was formally announced during this year's annual Maryland Muslim Lobby Day in Annapolis. Together with broad-based, interfaith coalitions, CAIR worked tirelessly during the ninety days to help successfully push across the finish line key bills that 1) designate January as 'Muslim American Heritage Month,' 2) protect immigrant communities terrorized by ICE, 3) promote juvenile justice, and 4) defend voting rights.

At bill hearings during Palestine Advocacy Week March 9-12, CAIR joined dozens of advocates, faith leaders, students, and community members from Palestine Christian Alliance for Peace, Jewish Voice for Peace Baltimore and DC Metro chapters, Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle, If Not Now Baltimore and others to provide testimony before lawmakers in support of legislation aimed at condemning the Gaza, Sudan and Congo genocides, advancing Palestinian rights, protecting free speech, promoting educational equity, and seeking ethical investment practices by the State of Maryland.

While five pieces of legislation advancing Palestinian human rights did not cross the finish line, the outcome does not define the movement – the record does. This session, more than 100 oral and written testimonies were submitted on record before the General Assembly in support of Palestinian rights, dignity, and humanity. These testimonies – now permanently archived in the legislative record – represent the most expansive and prominent showing of grassroots advocacy for Palestine in our state's history.

Each testimony is more than a statement – it is a documented act of conscience. Together, they form an undeniable public record affirming that Maryland residents are engaged, informed, and advocating for justice. These voices include lawmakers, students, faith leaders, educators, healthcare professionals, and community members who are part of a growing national movement seeking transparency and accountability of our government. Make no mistake – that record cannot be erased, ignored or forgotten.

In an environment where Palestine has long been sidelined or erased, the number of bills and volume and substance of testimony submitted this session signals a growing shift in which advocacy for Palestinian rights is no longer a fringe issue in civic and legislative discourse. CAIR extends its heartfelt gratitude to lawmakers who championed these bills.

Our organization is also continuing to work on anti-doxing legislation to protect students in higher education. We acknowledge the students who submitted powerful testimony sharing their experiences in favor of this measure.

Progress is not only measured by immediate policy wins. It's also measured through discourse, record-building and mobilization. Everyone who testified and made their voices heard is moving the needle towards change. CAIR is committed to continuing this work to advance our collective interest. Together, we are laying the foundation for what comes next.

Thank you to everyone who engaged – whether by testifying, responding to action alerts, or calling and emailing legislators. Your dedication powers this movement.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zainab Chaudry Pharm.D.'.

Zainab Chaudry, Pharm.D.
Director, CAIR Maryland



VICTORY

CAIR Position: FAVORABLE

• MD Voting Rights Act

Bans racially discriminatory local voting systems in Maryland and provides the state with the authority to protect the voting power of marginalized communities.

• Community Trust Act - Immigration

Limits state and local law enforcement from colluding with federal immigration enforcement (ICE).

• Youth Charging Reform Act

Prioritizes rehabilitation by ending the automatic charging as adults of youth 14- and 15-year-olds and reducing automatic charging for 16- and 17-year-olds. This measure now requires most cases to begin in juvenile court rather than adult court.

• Muslim & Jewish Heritage Month

Designates January as Muslim American Heritage Month and May as Jewish American Heritage Month.

• Data Privacy Act - Immigration

Prohibits state and local agencies from sharing, collecting, or retaining information regarding immigration status, particularly for non-criminal matters.

• Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

Prohibits local law enforcement from entering into voluntary agreements to act as ICE agents.

• Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

Restricts ICE access to sensitive locations such as hospitals, courthouses, and schools.



WORK IN PROGRESS

CAIR Position: FAVORABLE

- **Gaza, Sudan, Congo Genocide Resolution**

Recognizes three ongoing humanitarian catastrophes that demand moral clarity from democratic institutions.

- **Repeal anti-BDS Executive Order**

Repeals Maryland's Executive Order requiring businesses applying for state contracts to sign a loyalty pledge to Israel.

- **Distribution of Students' Personal Data - Prohibition**

Extends anti-doxxing protections to students in higher education (colleges and universities).

- **Divest State Retirement & Pension Funds From Israel**

Divests millions of dollars in state pension and retirement funds from Israeli bonds.

- **Not On Our Dime Act**

Prohibits state funding for Maryland non-profits that support illegal Israeli settlements.

- **Palestine Cultural Literacy in Public Education**

Mandates Palestine culture and history to be included in Maryland public school curriculums to help address anti-Palestinian hate and bias.



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CAIR Maryland weighed in on 27 bills this session to advance our communities' interests. Together with your support, we sent over 48,000 emails to state lawmakers, made hundreds of calls, participated in four press conferences, rallies, and vigils, and joined three coalition advocacy letters. Your dedication drives our movement. Stay engaged as we continue advocating for the rights and dignity of Maryland's Muslim and marginalized communities.



48K+

emails to state
lawmakers



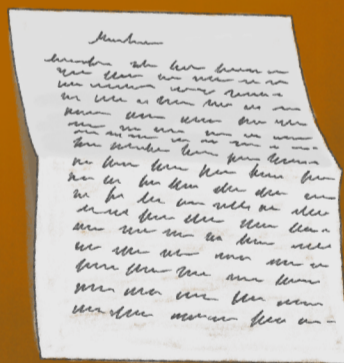
100's

hundreds of
calls to state
lawmakers



4

press
conferences,
vigils & rallies



3

coalition
advocacy
letters



27

bills CAIR
Maryland
supported or
opposed and
submitted
written and/or
oral testimony

