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I don't believe a ceasefire will achieve the peace and end to the suffering of the Palestinians. It may achieve a very temporary pause in the pain and suffering of Gazans, but if Hamas is allowed to remain in power, I believe they will make good on their stated promise to commit additional attacks like Oct 7th. And they will continue to spend billions of funds earmarked for Palestinians on more tunnels and armaments. They have been successful in presenting Israel with a "Sophie's Choice:" Either what's left of the remaining hostages who's names we know Or future mass death, mass destruction, hostages we don't know the names of yet, and continued misery for the Palestinian people.

But even if the decision is to "bring back the hostages" at whatever price, then voting in favor of a ceasefire resolution only accomplishes the opposite. American towns voting in favor of a ceasefire lessens the pressure on Hamas to even negotiate. It is a horrible situation, war always is, and should be avoided at almost all costs. But once it has begun, it needs to be ended as quickly and sometimes as ferociously as possible. Hamas' ability to wage war must be ended, and effectively deterred from returning. And that means... no resolution in favor of a ceasefire.

A vote for a ceasefire resolution encourages Hamas to never make a deal to return the hostages. It was only in reaction to Israel's recent takeover of the Rafah Crossing that Hamas returned a counteroffer, albeit masquerading as an acceptance of the offer on the table. American media played along, allowing the headlines to show Hamas accepting the offer and Israel attacking Rafah anyway. Well, we are back into a delay and holding pattern. Without military pressure on Hamas, there isn't even a chance of a deal.

I plead with Town Meeting members to resist the easy appearance of doing the right thing, "a ceasefire to stop the suffering," and look closer to understand how a vote in favor of a ceasefire only contributes to greater suffering.