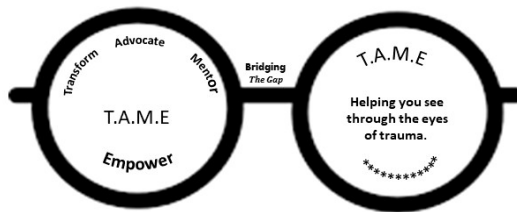


TAME on SB 0840.pdf

Uploaded by: Adrian Muldrow

Position: FAV



T.A.M.E supports SB 0840 because we believe that without the proper resources, we fail programs by not giving them what they need to serve the most impacted the best.

T.A.M.E
Transformative Advocacy Mentoring Empower
www.tame1.org

2023-02-22 SB840 (Support).pdf

Uploaded by: Hannibal Kemerer

Position: FAV

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Attorney General



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February 22, 2023

TO: The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: SB840 - Public Safety - Protecting Against Hate Crimes Grant Fund –
Establishment (**Support**)

The Office of the Attorney General requests a favorable report on Senator Kramer's bill Senate Bill 840. Senate Bill 840 establishes the Protecting Against Hate Crimes Grant Fund, a special fund administered by the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (GOCPYVS), to make grants to nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, to provide security enhancements to protect against hate crimes. The bill largely codifies an existing grant program – the Protecting Against Hate Crimes Grant Program – administered by GOCPYVS.

This program fund is essential to supplement nonprofit organizations to prevent hate crimes based upon the State's hate crimes statutes as contained in Title 10, Subtitle 3 of the Criminal Law Article.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General requests a favorable report on SB840.

cc: The Hon. Ben Kramer & Committee Members

This bill letter is a statement of the Office of Attorney General's policy position on the referenced pending legislation. For a legal or constitutional analysis of the bill, Members of the House and Senate should consult with the Counsel to the General Assembly, Sandy Brantley. She can be reached at 410-946-5600 or sbrantley@oag.state.md.us.

SB 840 - Testimony - Favorable (2) (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Henry J. Meiser

Position: FAV

Claire Cabral
Co-Founder

Henry J. Meiser
Co-Founder

SafeSchools USA
"Safer Schools Start With You"



**23127 Three Notch Road California, MD • www.safeschoolsusa.org
(240)-925-0600 • henry@safeschoolsusa.org**

February 21st, 2023

TO: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

RE: Senate Bill 840 – Public Safety – Protection Against Hate Crimes Grant – Establishment

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:

SafeSchools USA is a student-led and organized community organization, recognized primarily for its national presence and leadership in the training of educators, school resource officers, and other school safety stakeholders in the fields of school safety, school security, trends in student behavior, and student advocacy. It is as the Co-Founder and Executive Director of the organization that I write to you, in absolute favor of SB 840.

All students deserve to learn in a safe environment. 18 U.S.C. §245¹ cites that the attendance of a public school is a federally-protected activity, meaning that no one, whether acting in accordance with law, or not, may prevent an individual from seeking or enrolling in school on the grounds of opposition to a protected class. However, this is not the case for students who are subject to undue bullying, harassment, and intimidation inside of the classroom. Some students are even targeted based on their race, gender, sexual identity, ethnic origin, or religion². These unfortunate circumstances are playing out in schools across America, and circumstances which are a disruption to the classroom, and can be a threat to the security and safety of a school.

¹ <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/245> , 18 USC §245 - Federally Protected Activities Statute

² <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/249> , 18 USC §249 - Federal Hate Crimes Act and Statute

SB 840 – Public Safety – Protection Against
Hate Crimes Grant – Establishment

SB 840 establishes the Protection Against Hate Crimes Grant, a grant which can empower and financially support public and private schools to provide their school communities with greater security and protection from the execution of hate crimes.

No student should ever be subject to the execution of a hate crime, nonetheless within a school. However, we live in a world where some students are. So in the meantime, the best we can do is provide resources to try and protect our communities from them.

For these reasons, I ask that you produce a favorable report on Senate Bill 840.

Most Respectfully,



Henry J. Meiser

Co-Founder | SafeSchools USA

www.safeschoolsusa.org



ADL Testimony SB840- Hate Crimes Grant Fund.pdf

Uploaded by: Meredith Weisel

Position: FAV



Maryland General Assembly
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
February 22, 2023

Testimony of Meredith R. Weisel
ADL Washington D.C. Regional Director

ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) is pleased to submit this testimony in **support of SB840, Public Safety - Protecting Against Hate Crimes Grant Fund - Establishment**, a bill that would formally establish a special, non-lapsing fund to make grants available to nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, to provide security enhancements to protect against hate crimes.

Since 1913, the mission of ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) has been to “stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all.” For decades, one of the most important ways in which ADL has fought against bigotry and antisemitism has been by investigating extremist threats across the ideological spectrum, including from white supremacists and other far-right violent extremists, producing research to inform the public, and working with law enforcement, educators, the tech industry, and elected leaders to promote best practices to effectively address and counter these threats.

Related to this work, ADL has long been recognized as a leading resource on effective responses to violent bigotry, including hate crimes. In 1981, ADL crafted the first model hate crime law in the country, and today, 46 states, as well as the District of Columbia, have hate crime laws, many of which are based on or substantially similar to our model, which was unanimously upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. We were also privileged to lead a broad coalition of civil rights, religious, educational, professional, law enforcement, and civic organizations for more than a decade in support of the 2009 Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA).

In recent years, houses of worship across the country have unfortunately become increasingly vulnerable to hate-fueled violence and threats. Incidents have included the single deadliest anti-Jewish attack in U.S. history at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh in 2018, the murder of nine Black members of Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston in 2015, and the murder of six members of the Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin in 2012. Although not a deadly attack, the recent hostage situation at the synagogue in Colleyville, Texas, serves as another stark reminder of the threats faith communities face.

Against this backdrop, many nonprofit organizations, including houses of worship and other faith-based organizations, are increasingly struggling to afford necessary security precautions, which generally fall into three categories: training, hardening of facilities, and security staffing. While many training resources are often available free of charge, there are very real costs associated with the other two prongs of protecting houses of worship. From the installation of security cameras and alarm systems, to bollards intended to protect congregants gathering at an entrance or exit, to shatter resistant film on windows, to adequate fire mitigation or cyber-

security measures, there are a wide range of needs that each faith institution must consider in addressing its security needs, based on the communities each institution serves. Indeed, in addition to serving as places of prayer, many of our religious institutions house schools, day care centers and nonprofit organizations.

Senate Bill 840 will formalize the availability of critical resources to assist institutions in funding their security improvements. The bill recognizes the unique vulnerabilities shared by all nonprofit institutions, including faith-based organizations, and it recognizes that enhancing the safety and security of faith institutions and nonprofit organizations is an important public safety priority.

We accordingly urge the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee to give SB840 a favorable report.

Senate - Hate Crimes bill SB 840 - 2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Rabbi Ariel Sadwin

Position: FAV



Agudath Israel of Maryland
אגודת ישראל במרילנד
PROTECTING  ADVOCATING  SERVING

SENATE BUDGET & TAXATION COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 840

PUBLIC SAFETY - PROTECTING AGAINST HATE CRIMES GRANT FUND - ESTABLISHMENT

FEBRUARY 20, 2023

**TESTIMONY OF RABBI ARIEL SADWIN,
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AGUDATH ISRAEL OF MARYLAND**

SUPPORT

Agudath Israel of Maryland (AIMD), the Mid-Atlantic regional office for Agudath Israel of America – a renown national Jewish advocacy organization with chapters across the country, speaks on behalf of the Orthodox Jewish communities across Maryland.

We issue this testimony in **support** of SB 840 – to create a permanent funding program of \$5 million to protect religious institutions and non-profits – especially those who are assessed to be at a higher risk of being targeted with a hate crime.

It is with great concern and caution that we embrace the reality that our community faces as a target and victim of hate crimes. Throughout the generations, and with the alarming recent uptick, we are far too familiar with the wide variety of actions and threats of actions displayed by members of society who are simply unwilling to accept those who are different than them. Classic targets of those cowards who consider perpetrating crimes of this nature are facilities that house members of these targeted classes, such as their schools and day care centers.

As the Jewish community, our wounds are always fresh from one tragic occurrence or the next. Whether it was a synagogue in Pittsburgh or Poway, a kosher supermarket in Jersey City, a Chanukah celebration in a Monsey home, or the countless threats that come in to Jewish facilities – locally, nationally, or internationally – causing needless panic and fear.

People identified by their faith should be guaranteed the freedom to go about their lives with as much protection as we can possibly provide. This allocation is one critical way to see that through.

We strongly urge your support of SB 840 and hope you find it favorable.

Thank you.

SB840 PAHCG Codification .pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Miicke

Position: FAV

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Baltimore Zionist District

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Beth El Congregation

Beth Israel Congregation

Beth Shalom Congregation of

Howard County

Beth Tfiloh Congregation

B'nai B'rith, Chesapeake Bay Region

B'nai Israel Congregation

B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation

Bolton Street Synagogue

Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.

Chevrei Tzedek Congregation

Chizuk Amuno Congregation

Congregation Beit Tikvah

Congregation Tiferes Yisroel

Federation of Jewish Women's

Organizations of Maryland

Hadassah

Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation

J Street

Jewish Federation of Howard County

Jewish Labor Committee

Jewish War Veterans

Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary

Jewish Women International

Jews For Judaism

Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah

Hebrew Congregation

National Council of Jewish Women

Ner Tamid Congregation

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Religious Zionists of America

Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation

Shomrei Emunah Congregation

Suburban Orthodox Congregation

Temple Beth Shalom

Temple Isaiah

Zionist Organization of America

Baltimore District

Written Testimony

Senate Bill 840 - Public Safety - Protecting Against Hate Crimes Grant Fund - Establishment

Budget and Taxation Committee

February 22, 2023

Support

Background: Senate Bill 840 (SB840) would codify the budget language of the Protecting Against Hate Crimes Grant Program which was established in FY2020 because of the unfortunate rise in hate bias incidents in Maryland and throughout the country. These grants are used for infrastructure upgrades and security personnel for institutions deemed at-risk for hate crimes or attacks. The bill proposes \$5 million dollars for the grant program, the same as the FY24 budget allocation, with at least \$1 million set aside for religious institutions.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council, which represents The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and its agencies, respectfully urges the Committee to codify this grant program. This grant aims to directly address the recent climate of fear and intimidation caused by rising hate/bias incidents. Everyone deserves to feel safe in their places of worship and religious institutions. With the recent tragedies in Colleyville, Pittsburgh, Poway, Jersey City and Monsey fresh on everyone's minds, the concern of a similar tragedy in Maryland is very real. For the past five years, the Jewish community has been the 2nd most common target of hate/bias incidents reported to the Maryland State Police, with the highest percentage based on religion. We cannot allow the fear of antisemitism and hate crimes deter people from attending their own places of worship and religious institutions. Instead, we must act so that everyone feels free to practice their faith in a space that is secure. With this in mind we ask that you take bold action to protect more Marylanders from hate crimes and codify the Protecting Against Hate Crimes Grant Program.

For these reasons the Baltimore Jewish Council asks for a favorable report on SB840.

BALTIMORE JEWISH COUNCIL

5750 Park Heights Avenue, Suite 329 • Baltimore, Maryland 21215

410-542-4850 • fax 410-542-4834 • baltjc.org

Member of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Baltimore Jewish Council is an agency of The Associated

 **The Associated**
 Jewish Federation of Baltimore

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.

Testimony_SB0840.pdf

Uploaded by: Kevin Lang

Position: UNF

Testimony SB0840

I am opposed to this bill as it is legally questionable if the US Constitution allows for the concept of a "hate crime" and, if such a concept is permissible, it is so nebulously defined and superfluous--a "hate crime" is an extension of crimes that are already on the books--that the idea of it is a waste of time and resources at best, and lays the legal foundation for "witch hunts" at worse.

Accordingly, this bill's proposed grant to protect against this nebulous nemesis is a waste of resources.

Oppose SB840.pdf

Uploaded by: Mark Meyerovich

Position: UNF

Oppose SB840

Before jumping with both feet into another biased redistribution scheme, what has been done to address hate crimes against “non-profit organizations”? What is the hope that such fund will decrease damages from such hate crimes? How will this large chunk of money be distributed?

If extra funds are available, why not spend it on increasing police presence and capabilities to protect citizens and organizations from such hate crimes and more efficiently allocating efforts and resources where needed most?