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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

HB1244: Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day
House Health and Government Operations Committee | March 15, 2023

SUPPORT

Background: HB1244 would require the Governor to recognize International Holocaust Remembrance Day annually in Maryland, declaring the importance of recognizing this day of reflection and remembrance.

Written Comments: The rise in antisemitic acts across the country over the past few years is not lost on the Jewish Community. According to the ADL, Maryland saw a 17% increase in the number of antisemitic incidents reported in 2021. Additionally, according to Maryland State Police's 2021 Hate Bias Report, anti-Jewish hate crime incidents account for more than 1 in 10 hate crime incidents, the second highest bias after anti-Black hate crimes. Just last month, the American Jewish Committee released its fourth [State of Antisemitism in America](#) report, where key takeaways included that 41% of American Jews say they feel less secure than a year ago, and almost 6 in 10 Jewish young adults say antisemitism is taken less seriously than other forms of hate.

One of the best ways to prevent history from repeating itself is through education. In 2020, the first-ever [50 state survey on Holocaust knowledge of American Gen Z-ers and Millennials](#) was completed by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. Maryland was ranked among 9 other states to have the lowest Holocaust Knowledge Scores, including Alaska, Georgia, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, and Arkansas. It is clear that we have a lot of work to do.

By declaring Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day annually, we will be taking a needed step toward educating our community on the atrocities of the Holocaust; honoring the six million Jews who lost their lives during this time; and recognizing the survivors that still reside in Maryland.

For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report of HB1244.

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.