



NAACP

Maryland
STATE CONFERENCE

March 27, 2024
Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB 1386 - Education - School Employee Antibias Training – Requirements

Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland State Conference NAACP, I am writing to express our heartfelt gratitude to the sponsors of House Bill 1386 for their understanding of the critical importance of addressing bias and discrimination in our educational institutions. We commend their recognition that all members of marginalized communities are equally important and deserve equal protection and support.

The provisions outlined in this bill underscore the significance of providing comprehensive antibias training for our educators. By acknowledging that anti-hate education must occur on multiple levels, the sponsors of this bill demonstrate a keen understanding of the complex challenges facing our schools and communities today.

At a time when Islamophobia and antisemitism are rampant, it is essential that we also acknowledge the centuries-long struggle that Black communities have endured against hate and racism in our schools and neighborhoods. This legislation recognizes that now is not the time to lower our heads and ignore the issues that surround us. Instead, it is a time to forge ahead and declare, "enough is enough."

We firmly believe that education is the key to combating hate and bigotry in all its forms. By starting with our educators, we are taking a smart and proactive approach to lifting this burden from our communities. That providing them with the tools and knowledge to recognize and address bias, it will not only benefit students but will also create more inclusive and supportive learning environments for all.

By investing in antibias training for school employees, we are taking a significant step towards building a more just, equitable, and compassionate society for all Marylanders.

The Maryland State Conference NAACP fully supports House Bill 1386 and urges the Committee to vote in favor of its passage.

Thank you for considering our testimony on this crucial issue.

In Service,

NaShona Kess, Esq., MLS
Executive Director
Maryland State Conference NAACP
NaShona.Kess@naacpmarland.org