



NAACP

Maryland
STATE CONFERENCE

February 23, 2024

Education, Energy, and the Environment
Maryland General Assembly
Annapolis, Maryland

Re: SB 1058 – Educate to Stop the Hate Act

Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland State Conference of the NAACP. We are in favor of Senate Bill 1058, Education - Curriculum Standards - Antihate and Holocaust Education (Educate to Stop the Hate Act). We ask that all members of the committee vote in favor of this legislation that seeks to require the State Board of Education to develop certain curriculum standards and curriculum resources for certain instructional content by January 1, 2025; requiring the State Department of Education to revise and enhance certain history and social studies frameworks to include certain instruction; requiring all public schools and certain nonpublic schools to include the revised and enhanced instruction in school curricula beginning in the 2025-2026 school year; etc.

We believe that a comprehensive and inclusive education is essential for fostering understanding, empathy, and equity among our students.

However, as we endorse the goals of SB 1058, we also propose crucial amendments to ensure that the curriculum adequately addresses the historical experiences of marginalized communities, particularly regarding white supremacy and transatlantic slavery.

Firstly, we propose amending the bill to include references to "white supremacy" wherever the term "antisemitism" appears. This amendment is vital because white supremacy has been a pervasive force throughout American history, shaping institutions, policies, and societal norms. By explicitly addressing white supremacy in the curriculum, we can provide students with a deeper understanding of systemic racism and its enduring impacts on our society.

Secondly, we recommend include references to the "holocaust" with "transatlantic slavery." While the holocaust is undoubtedly a significant historical event that deserves attention, it is equally important to recognize the horrors of transatlantic slavery and its lasting effects on African American communities. By incorporating the study of transatlantic slavery into the curriculum, we can ensure that students gain a more comprehensive understanding of the complex history of oppression and resistance in our country.

These proposed amendments are rooted in our commitment to promoting racial justice and equity in education. As an organization dedicated to advancing civil rights and combating discrimination, the Maryland NAACP believes that an inclusive curriculum is essential for building a more just and equitable society.

Furthermore, it is essential to note that these amendments align with the broader goals of SB 1058 to enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion in our schools. By incorporating the experiences of marginalized communities into the curriculum, we can empower students to challenge injustice and work towards a more equitable future.

In conclusion, the Maryland NAACP support of SB 1058 with the proposed amendments to include references to white supremacy and transatlantic slavery in the curriculum. Together, we can ensure that all students receive a comprehensive education that reflects the diverse experiences and contributions of our society.

Thank you.

In Service,

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