



HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

JANUARY 31, 2024

HOUSE BILL 71

EDUCATION – HOLOCAUST EDUCATION ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM – ESTABLISHED

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

SUPPORT

Agudath Israel of Maryland speaks on behalf of the Orthodox Jewish communities across Maryland, on behalf of the 10,000 students attending 30 Jewish day schools in our great state, and on behalf of many Jewish survivors of the Holocaust and their families, who are such an important part of our communities.

While the geographical location of the perpetuation of the Holocaust may have been confined to Europe and northern Africa, its ramifications know no boundaries. Knowledge of the depths of evil to which man can stoop if we neglect our moral responsibilities and choose not to acknowledge the brotherhood of all mankind is a universal lesson, not limited only to the communities who suffered those horrors.

Those who do not learn history, it is said, are doomed to repeat it. Enabling educators to provide proper Holocaust education is therefore a most worthy endeavor. Students can learn the value and importance of tolerance, of respect for all, of refraining from dehumanizing others, and of not remaining silent.

We respectfully request the members of the committee to help schools further Holocaust education by giving a favorable report on House Bill 71.