

HB1181_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

2/28/2024

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TESTIMONY ON HB#1181 – FAVORABLE

Education - Curriculum Standards - Antihate and Holocaust Education (Educate to Stop the Hate Act)

TO: Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins and members of the Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#1181, Education - Curriculum Standards - Antihate and Holocaust Education (Educate to Stop the Hate Act)

My Jewish faith tell me (Leviticus 19:17-18) “¹⁷“Do not hate your brother in your heart, but rebuke your neighbors frankly, so that you won’t carry sin because of him. ¹⁸Don’t take vengeance on or bear a grudge against any of your people; rather, love your neighbors as yourself; I am your G-d”

This bill attempts to ensure curriculum in Maryland schools and the resources in support of that will enable a fact based and historical presentation of the Holocaust and the roots and expression of antisemitism in the past and currently. It will battle the misinformation and disinformation present on both social media and in textbooks that might be incorrect or misleading in our schools. It will force a revision that will fix these deficiencies in our presentations of these topics.

Rogers and Hammerstein, in their classic musical *South Pacific*, sum up what has to happen in the song “You’ve Got To Be Carefully Taught”.

“You’ve got to be taught to hate and fear,/You’ve got to be taught from year to year,
It’s got to be drummed in your dear little ear—/You’ve got to be carefully taught!

You’ve got to be taught to be afraid / Of people whose eyes are oddly made,
And people whose skin is a different shade— / You’ve got to be carefully taught.

You’ve got to be taught before it’s too late, / Before you are six or seven or eight,
To hate all the people your relatives hate— / You’ve got to be carefully taught!”

This bill will help our educators battle this mindset and help to stop the vastly increased hatreds that are now permeating our society.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass HB1181.