

HB1386_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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TESTIMONY ON HB#/1386 – FAVORABLE

Education - Employee Training and Holocaust Education Study – Requirements

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#1386, Education - Employee Training and Holocaust Education Study – Requirements

My Jewish faith tell me (Leviticus 19:17-18) ¹⁷“Do not hate your brother in your heart, but rebuke your neighbor 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 neighbor as yourself; I am your G-d”

This bill attempts to ensure employees in educational settings know how to stop hate from spreading by requiring the provision of education on those topics. It also mandates that an independent study and assessment occur to see what anti-hatred education is currently being done in our middle and high schools in Maryland.

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 HB1386.