

## **House Bill 1386**

My name is Kim Glassman, and I am writing today in support of House Bill 1386. As a granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, the daughter of a Holocaust educator, and the parent of three children in Montgomery County Public Schools, it is imperative that all teachers across the State of Maryland receive robust training on antisemitism. Teachers are the first line of defense when antisemitic actions occur. They must have the knowledge and tools to identify and disrupt antisemitic behavior in their classrooms and school environments.

The way this bill currently reads, a large emphasis will be on educator training related to the Holocaust. While learning about the Holocaust is very important, the educator training must also focus on modern antisemitism, notably, anti-Zionism. Zionism is the belief that Israel has a right to exist as a Jewish state and that the Jewish people have a right to self-determination in their homeland. Nothing more, nothing less. Teachers must learn that when students, or even other staff members, make statements such as "From the River to the Sea Palestine Will Be Free" and "Globalize the Intifada" that they are antisemitic and make Jewish students and staff members feel unsafe and unwelcome.

I would also recommend amending the bill to add to the definition of "cultural diversity" to not only mean the inclusion of racial and ethnic groups and individuals that are or were historically underrepresented, but to also include the groups that experience the most incidents of hate/bias in education, as may be reflected in federal, state or local law enforcement records tracking such incidents.

Given the explosion of antisemitism in Maryland, especially in schools and amongst young people, this legislation cannot wait. Please pass House Bill 1386.