

Please support SB1058 Education - Curriculum Standards - Antihate and Holocaust Education (Educate to Stop the Hate Act)

I am the daughter of survivors of Auschwitz and Dachau. Even before Oct. 7, there were periodic episodes of antisemitic acts here in Western Maryland. For example, a huge swastika was painted on the water tower. I saw it every morning until the city was persuaded to paint it over. The B'er Chayim synagogue was vandalized and grafittied at one point. I overheard occasional antisemitic remarks made at work and in the community because I "did not look Jewish."

An ongoing problem when my children were young was the insensitivity in scheduling sports and cultural events on major Jewish holidays. My attempts to add cultural sensitivity to holiday programming fell on deaf years.

But most disturbing was an incident when my daughter, then in high school, was invited to speak to Dan Whetzel's history classes about her grandmother's experiences in WW2, and specifically in Auschwitz. After the class, the students were asked to write on "What can we do to see the Holocaust doesn't happen again." One student responded, "There is nothing wrong with killing Jews or gypsies."

Even before Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> attacks on Israel, Maryland had a high rate of antisemitic incidents—the 10<sup>th</sup> highest per a Statista report in 2022.<sup>1</sup> Since then, the ADL reported a staggering 337% increase in antisemitic incidents in America.<sup>2</sup> "In **Maryland**, 109 antisemitic incidents were reported in 2022, a 98 percent increase from the 55 incidents in 2021, and a 132 percent increase from the 47 incidents reported in 2020."<sup>3</sup>

Since 2016, in particular, there has been a notable increase in divisiveness and hate-mongering across the board. This has soared since Oct.7.

We must do more to teach tolerance in schools in general and specifically provide Holocaust education, including the roots of antisemitism.

I urge you to support SB1058, the Educate to Stop the Hate Act.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.statista.com/statistics/816761/number-of-anti-semitic-incidents-s-in-the-us-by-state/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/adl-reports-unprecedented-rise-antisemitic-incidents-post-oct-7>

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<sup>3</sup> <https://dc.adl.org/news/adl-audit-finds-shocking-levels-of-antisemitic-incidents-in-maryland-and-virginia-with-only-a-slight-decrease-in-the-district-of-columbia-in-2022/>