



# NAACP

Maryland  
STATE CONFERENCE

February 23, 2024

Ways and Means  
Maryland General Assembly  
Annapolis, Maryland

Re: HB 1386 – Holocaust Education

Honorable Members of the House Committee on Ways and Means,

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland NAACP to express our support for House Bill 1386, which aims to address the vital issues of antisemitism and Islamophobia through education and training initiatives. We commend the efforts of the bill sponsors to promote understanding, tolerance, and respect within our communities.

However, while we endorse the overall objectives of HB 1386, we propose significant amendments to ensure that the legislation effectively addresses the broader issues of hate and discrimination, particularly in relation to white supremacy and transatlantic slavery.

Firstly, we recommend amending the bill to include references to "white supremacy" wherever the term "antisemitism" appears. White supremacy is a pervasive and persistent ideology that has fueled violence, oppression, and discrimination against Black communities throughout history. By explicitly addressing white supremacy in the training requirements outlined in HB 1386, we can equip educators with the knowledge and tools to confront and dismantle systems of racial injustice in our schools and communities.

Secondly, we propose replacing references to the "Holocaust" with "transatlantic slavery" in the provisions related to the independent study and assessment of education in middle and high schools. While the Holocaust is a crucial historical event that demands study and remembrance, it is equally essential to acknowledge and address the legacy of transatlantic slavery and its ongoing impacts on African American communities. By conducting a comprehensive assessment of education on transatlantic slavery, we can ensure that students gain a deeper understanding of the root causes of racial inequality and injustice in our society.

These amendments are grounded in our commitment to advancing racial justice and equity in education. As an organization dedicated to combating hate and discrimination, the Maryland NAACP believes that it is essential to address the intersections of race, religion, and power in our efforts to create inclusive and equitable learning environments.

Moreover, incorporating references to white supremacy and transatlantic slavery into HB 1386 aligns with the broader goals of promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in our schools. By addressing the root causes of hate and discrimination, we can create safer and more welcoming communities for all Marylanders.

In conclusion, the Maryland NAACP urges the House Committee on Ways and Means to support HB 1386 with the proposed amendments to include references to white supremacy and transatlantic slavery in the training requirements and assessment provisions. Together, we can work towards a more just, equitable, and inclusive society.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

In Service,

NaShona Kess, Esq., MLS  
Executive Director, NAACP Maryland State Conference  
[NaShonakess.mdnaacp@gmail.com](mailto:NaShonakess.mdnaacp@gmail.com)