

**Testimony in Support of SB293
County Boards of Education - Antibias Training for Members -
Requirement (County) Board Member Antibias Training Act)
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
January 29, 2025**

FAVORABLE

TO: Sen. Brian Feldman, Chair, Sen. Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair
FROM: Nancy Braverman and Barbara Deitch, Co-Presidents
Hadassah Greater Baltimore

On behalf of the Greater Baltimore Region of Hadassah, representing over 4,100 Marylanders, we are writing to urge you to **vote FOR Senate Bill 293 - County Boards of Education - Antibias Training for Members - Requirement (County Board Member Antibias Training Act)**

This bill will require each member of a county board of education to complete antibias training at least once during the member's term to combat prejudices faced by various groups, as well as historically marginalized religious minorities, to include antisemitism.

It is important to equip our education leaders with the tools they need to understand and properly teach this material to their students.

The disturbing explosion of antisemitism in our country — and here in Maryland — underscores the need to teach our children about this heinous chapter in world history. It is critical that students receive a complete and accurate evidence based training of the Holocaust and the grave dangers of prejudice. Especially since the October 7, 2023 Hamas invasion of Israel, antisemitism and Holocaust denialism are rampant.

As seen in Hadassah's recently released report, *From Fear to Resilience: Women Facing Antisemitism*, the recent upsurge in antisemitism in our country deeply affects our daily sense of security and safety, and heightens the need to counter this scourge with an accurate history of the Holocaust. Two-thirds of the Jewish women we surveyed said antisemitism is affecting their lives, relationships and work.

One of the best ways to prevent history from repeating itself is through proper education and and Hadassah urges the committee for a favorable report on SB293.

Thank you,
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