

2023 JCRC HB 1075 Maryland Dept of Emergency Mgmt

Uploaded by: Ashlie Bagwell

Position: FAV



**Testimony in SUPPORT of *House Bill 1075 – Maryland Department of
Emergency Management – Office of Domestic Terrorism Response*
Appropriations Committee
March 9, 2023**

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish organizations, synagogues, and social services agencies throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on freedom, justice, and pluralism. We work throughout the region to advocate for our agencies that serve the most vulnerable residents and to campaign for important policy interests on behalf of the Jewish community and all Marylanders. The JCRC is focused on promoting social justice and intergroup relations and combating antisemitism and all forms of hatred.

In our ongoing effort to address the relentless dual threats of domestic terrorism and hate crimes, the JCRC supports House Bill 1075 to establish the Office of Domestic Terrorism Response within the Maryland Department of Emergency Management. This Office will be structured to implement measures to prepare for, prevent, and recover from domestic terrorism and hate crimes. The Bill also requires the Maryland Task Force on Preventing and Countering Domestic Terrorism to serve in an advisory role for the Office. Antisemitism is one of the oldest forms of hatred and Maryland is not immune to such attacks at his schools and houses of worship. According to the ADL, hate crimes and bias incidents against the Jewish community continue to rise at an alarming rate. In 2021, incidents were up 34% across the nation and 17% in Maryland from the previous year. Additionally, the FBI's latest Hate Crime Statistics indicate that the majority of all religious-based hate crimes in our country are against the Jewish community. Although Jews only represent 2% of the population, they constitute 60% of all anti-religious hate or bias crimes.

The threat of domestic terrorism tears at the fabric of our society and social media has allowed this hatred and intolerance to flourish in all of our communities. Establishing a formal Office of Domestic Terrorism Response is a proactive step in our efforts to combat online extremism and protect potential victims from hate crimes. For these reasons, we ask this committee to give a favorable report on House Bill 1075.

HB1075 - Domestic Terrorism Office Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Howard Libit

Position: FAV

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 Religious Zionists of America
 Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
 Shomrei Emunah Congregation
 Suburban Orthodox Congregation
 Temple Beth Shalom
 Temple Isaiah
 Zionist Organization of America
 Baltimore District

Written Testimony

**House Bill 1075 - Maryland Department of Emergency Management – Office
 of Domestic Terrorism Response
 Appropriations Committee – March 9, 2023**

Support

Background: House Bill 1075 would establish the Office of Domestic Terrorism Response within the Maryland Department of Emergency Management for the purpose of implementing measures to prepare for, prevent, and recover from domestic terrorism and hate crimes; and generally relating to emergency management and the Office of Domestic Terrorism Response. The creation of the office is the explicit recommendation of Maryland's Task Force on Preventing and Countering Domestic Terrorism, which was first convened in fall 2021.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council represents The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore and all of its agencies. The BJC's responsibilities include helping to coordinate security preparations, trainings, and responses for The Associated system and the Jewish community institutions in most Maryland jurisdictions.

Domestic terrorism continues to be an increasing threat across our country. Just last month, the FBI stopped a plot by two neo-Nazis to target several BGE electric substations with gunfire in Baltimore County. This past weekend, we experienced a nationwide alert for a "Day of Hate" from far-right groups, prompting heightened patrols and vigilance across communities.

Statistics also show a significant rise in antisemitic incidents in Maryland. ADL reports a 17% increase in Maryland. Additionally, according to the Maryland State Police's 2021 Hate Bias Report, anti-Jewish hate crime incidents account for more than 1 in 10 hate crime incidents, the second highest bias after anti-Black hate crimes.

To help address this unending threat, Maryland's Task Force on Preventing and Countering Domestic Terrorism was first convened in Fall 2021, with a goal of determining how to effectively oppose domestic terrorism in Maryland, including, but not limited to, countering online extremism while protecting First Amendment rights. Membership included representatives from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, State Police, the House of Delegates, the Office of the Attorney General, the Public Defender's

Office, the Anti-Defamation League, the NAACP, U.S. Dept of Homeland Security, and many other interested parties, including the Baltimore Jewish Council.

The creation of an Office of Domestic Terrorism Response is also critical to implement the other recommendations of Maryland's task force, including:

- Investing in a permanent State of Maryland capability focused on violent extremism prevention to include not only domestic terrorism but also homegrown violent extremism associated with international terrorism, as well as hate crimes.
- Adopting an approach to violence prevention that includes primary prevention (e.g., raising awareness of violent extremism, increasing trust and lines of communication between communities and local government), secondary prevention (e.g., multidisciplinary interventions for at-risk individuals), and tertiary prevention (e.g., rehabilitation and reintegration).

By establishing a formal Office of Domestic Terrorism Response under the Department of Emergency Management with the goal of preparing, preventing, and recovering from these malicious acts, we believe that not only the Jewish Community, but all other communities that are victims of hate crimes, will be better protected.

For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Council asks for a favorable report on HB1075 to assist our state's collective fight against hate, antisemitism, extremism, and domestic terrorism.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.

ADL Testimony MD_DT Office HB1075.pdf

Uploaded by: Meredith Weisel

Position: FAV



Maryland General Assembly
House Appropriations Committee
March 9, 2023

Testimony of Meredith R. Weisel
ADL Washington D.C. Regional Director

ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) is pleased to submit this testimony in **support of HB1075**, which would establish an Office of Domestic Terrorism Response within the Maryland Department of Emergency Management.

Since 1913, the mission of ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) has been to “stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all.” For decades, one of the most important ways in which ADL has fought against bigotry and antisemitism has been by investigating extremist threats across the ideological spectrum, including from white supremacists and other far-right violent extremists, producing research to inform the public, and working with law enforcement, educators, the tech industry, and elected leaders to promote best practices to effectively address and counter these threats.

The intelligence and law enforcement communities are gravely concerned about the threat of Domestic Violent Extremism (DVE).¹ According to Anti-Defamation League (ADL) research, data that shows antisemitism, extremism, and violence committed by extremists are in periods of historical highs. In 2022, domestic extremists killed at least 25 people in the U.S., 15 of whom were killed in incidents of mass casualty violence.² ADL tracked almost 130 counts of white supremacist propaganda in Maryland in 2022.

At the federal level, the Biden Administration released a National Strategy to Counter Domestic Terrorism, increased homeland security resources to address the threat, and established an office at the Department of Justice to deal specifically with domestic terrorism. The State of Maryland should follow suit. In its report this past December, the State of Maryland Task Force on Preventing and Countering Domestic Terrorism identified the need for standing entities to address the threat on an ongoing basis. Without a dedicated team, specialized in the threat, it will be difficult to create ongoing, carefully curated efforts to address domestic terrorism.

To pass and enact HB1075 would ensure that the Maryland Department of Emergency Management has a standing, specialized office focused on the domestic terrorist threat. It would also ensure that the Task Force would advise the office, mitigating the potential for duplicative

¹ E.g. DHS National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin. 30 November 2022.

<https://www.dhs.gov/ntas/advisory/national-terrorism-advisory-system-bulletin-november-30-2022>; ODNI “Domestic Violent Extremism Poses Heightened Threat in 2021.” 1 March 2021.

<https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/UnclassSummaryofDVEAssessment-17MAR21.pdf>

² Anti-Defamation League. “Murder and Extremism in the United States in 2022.” 22 February 2023.

<https://www.adl.org/resources/report/murder-and-extremism-united-states-2022>

efforts and increasing the likelihood of multifaceted advice being provided to the office. With this office in place, the State of Maryland would be safer from the domestic violent extremist threat.

We accordingly urge the House Appropriations Committee to give HB1075 a favorable report.

2023-03-09 HB1075 Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Rhea Harris

Position: FAV

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March 9, 2023

TO: The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair, Appropriations Committee

FROM: Rhea L. Harris
Deputy Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: HB 1075 – Maryland Department of Emergency Management – Office of
Domestic Terrorism Response - **Support**

The Office of the Attorney General (“OAG”) urges the Committee to give House Bill 1075 a favorable report.

House Bill 1075 establishes the Office of Domestic Terrorism Response within the Maryland Department of Emergency Management for the purpose of implementing measures to prepare for, prevent, and recover from domestic terrorism and hate crimes; and requiring the Maryland Task Force on Preventing and Countering Domestic Terrorism to serve in an advisory role for the Office.

House Bill 1075 is a great start, and the Office of Domestic Terrorism Response should review a process of eliminating extreme terrorism from the ranks of state armed forces. Extreme terrorism has no place in the state armed forces. A person who believes in extreme terrorism cannot also be supportive of the citizens of the State or the Governor. The Attorney General was very supportive of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in FY2022 as a Congressman; and now is Supportive of House Bill 1075 as Attorney General.

Therefore, for the above-mentioned reasons, the Office of Attorney General urges a Favorable Report on House Bill 1075.

cc: Delegate Samuel “Sandy” Rosenberg & Committee Members

Testimony HB 1075_Rosenberg.pdf

Uploaded by: Samuel Rosenberg

Position: FAV

SAMUEL I. "SANDY" ROSENBERG
Legislative District 41
Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair

Health Occupations and
Long-Term Care Subcommittee

House Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review



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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg

Before the House Appropriations Committee

in Support of House Bill 1075

**Maryland Department of Emergency Management –
Office of Domestic Terrorism Response**

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee:

We have seen the carnage violent extremism leaves on minority communities.

Just last month, the FBI intervened to thwart a plot by two neo-Nazis to target several BGE electric substations with gunfire in Baltimore County. Earlier this month, Jewish communities across the country encountered online threats for a “Day of Hate” from far-right groups, forcing extra police patrols, extra security, and extra vigilance at synagogues and in heavily Jewish neighborhoods.

In other states, we have seen murders against the LGBTQ community in Colorado Springs resulting in 5 people killed and 25 wounded, and the racism-inspired shooting in a grocery store in Buffalo resulting in 10 people killed and 3 wounded.

Let us not forget the 2017 murder of Richard Collins, a Bowie State ROTC Candidate, who was murdered by an “alt-right” extremist. We must take the initiative against extremist behavior so that we keep Maryland families and communities safe.

We can and must do so consistent with the First Amendment.

In December 2022, The Maryland Office of Emergency Management submitted a summary report with recommendations from its Task Force on Preventing and Countering Domestic Terrorism. The report proposes important actions we can take to combat domestic terrorism in Maryland.

House Bill 1075 would codify the recommendations of the Task Force and make clear that Maryland will vigilantly oppose all forms of violent extremism.

HB 1075 would establish an Office of Domestic Terrorism Response in the Department of Emergency Management. The Office would work with federal, state, and local agencies to:

1. Maximize the roles of colleges and universities in researching and developing professional training on how to combat violent extremism;
2. Raise awareness among the public about violent extremism, hate crimes, domestic terrorism, and international terrorism;
3. Develop multidisciplinary interventions for those at risk of becoming radicalized; and
4. Facilitate the rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals into society who participate in violent extremism.

The bill also requires the Office to report annually to the General Assembly and the Governor on its activities, legislation, and resources it needs to carry out its purpose and duties. The passage of HB 1075 will formalize the coordination between various state actors and strengthen our capabilities to address and prevent violent extremism.

I urge the committee to give HB 1075 a favorable report.

March 9, 2023

MDEM - HB1075 - Office of Domestic Terrorism - FWA

Uploaded by: Anna Sierra

Position: FWA

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS - HB1075
Maryland Department of Emergency Management -
Office of Domestic Terrorism Response

Maryland Department of Emergency Management
Appropriations Committee
Hearing Date: 09 MAR 2023

Chairman Ben Barnes
Appropriations Committee
Room 121
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 20401

Chairman Barnes,

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) writes today **in support with amendments of HB1075 - Maryland Department of Emergency Management - Office of Domestic Terrorism Response.**

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management is the principal department responsible for ensuring Maryland is adequately prepared to deal with emergencies that are beyond the capabilities of local authorities. This bill would establish a new Office of Domestic Terrorism within MDEM to “prepare for, prevent, and recover from domestic terrorism and hate crimes.”

MDEM recognizes and appreciates the work of the Maryland Task Force on Preventing and Countering Domestic Terrorism and supports efforts to increase prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery coordination through a whole community approach. The two reports developed and submitted by the Task Force reflect thoughtful consideration of the complexities around domestic terrorism and violent extremism. The most recent [report recommended](#) that there be, “a permanent coordinating office - equipped with financial and personnel resources, executive authority, and a chain of command - intended to facilitate a multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral task force to advance this mission,” (p. 6).



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Russell J. Strickland | Secretary

Subsections (C)(3) and (C)(4) requires MDEM to, “(3) develop multidisciplinary interventions for at-risk individuals; and (4) facilitate the rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals who participate in violent extremism,” (p. 3, lines 1-4). MDEM agrees these efforts as a key part of combating violent extremism, however the Department lacks the subject matter expertise in areas like social work, public health, and the justice system to be able to carry out the requirements in this bill. MDEM respectfully requests the bill be amended to remove these requirements.

MDEM thanks the Committee for your consideration, and urges a **FAVORABLE REPORT WITH AMENDMENTS on HB1075**. Please contact Anna Sierra, legislative liaison, at anna.sierral@maryland.gov with any questions.

Additional Background

In 2021, MDEM (MEMA at the time) was required by the Joint Chairmen’s Report “to convene the Task Force on Preventing and Countering Domestic Terrorism to determine how to effectively oppose domestic terrorism in Maryland...” (p. 41). The General Assembly at the time expressed concern regarding the rising threat of domestic terrorism in Maryland, and required MDEM to detail how Homeland Security Grant Program funds had been expended to support programs to counter domestic terrorism. MDEM submitted the report as required on November 15, 2021, and it can be found on the DLS [mandated reports website](#).

In 2022, the Joint Chairmen’s Report required MDEM to continue holding “regular meetings,” of the Task Force with the same membership identified in 2021 (p. 40-41). The task force was asked to:

- Review domestic terrorism threats from all potential sources
- Offer suggestions and guidance to MDEM on such areas as the following:
 - Coordinating with federal, State, and local agencies;
 - Consulting with the academic community
 - Working with public health professionals
 - Seeking new grant opportunities for the State;
 - Identifying trends in domestic terrorism; and
 - Collecting and implementing best practices

A summary report on the task force work was submitted as required on December 1, 2022 and it can be found on the DLS [mandated reports website](#).

230307-HB1075-Domestic-Terrorists.pdf

Uploaded by: Christine Hunt

Position: UNF

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers
1014 Dockser Drive
Crownsville, MD 21032

March 7, 2023

Maryland General Assembly
Members of the Appropriations Committee
Annapolis, MD

RE: HB 1075 – Maryland Department of Emergency Management – Office of Domestic Terrorism Response

Dear Delegates,

We oppose HB 1075 in its current form and respectfully request that you vote against it.

We understand the need for managing a terrorist attack, should it come to our State.

However, with the accusations of parents voicing their displeasure, at the policies that were forced on their children, at School Board meetings, and being classified as “terrorists”, we feel that the bill needs to specify what constitutes a terrorist.

Many other freedom-loving, Constitution-loving citizens have also been targeted, censored on social medial platforms and other venues and accused of being terrorists because they opposed the current narrative.

Whereas the rioters of Black Lives Matter, Antifa and others who have caused massive destruction in cities around our country are not labeled terrorists – which is exactly what they are doing – terrorizing the population!

Clarify what constitutes a terrorist please.

Sincerely,

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers

WITNESS (HB 1075).pdf

Uploaded by: jill smith

Position: UNF

WITNESS: Jill Ellen Smith
JURISDICTION: Baltimore County

BILL: HB 1075 (Cross filed SB785)

TITLE: Maryland Department of Emergency Management---Office of Domestic Terrorism Response

POSITION: OPPOSE

I have been a lifelong resident of Maryland and reside in Baltimore County (Catonsville). I have serious concerns about this bill and its impact on Marylanders, however I will only focus here on my concerns as to the appropriations of my tax money and where it is going.

This bill (which I will refer to as (ODTR) has been partially based upon a concern about 'hate crimes' in our state over the last few years. The numbers I see do not justify allocation of my tax money in this direction. In 2018 Maryland reported only 50; in 2019, only 19; and then in 2020 only 40. My understanding is that the justification for this bill is due to the 'high' and increasing rate of hate crimes. Why is 2021 or 2022 NOT considered? Does it reflect the downward trend as those from 2018 to 2020 do? I am unaware of any upward trend in this 'hate crime' narrative and therefore see no justification to spend taxpayer money in this way. We already have a substantive amount of taxpayer money being spent on the 'Re-fund the Police Initiative/ grant program for Victims of Crime Assistance (VOCA)/ \$2million for Zero-Eyes gun detection pilot program/ and \$400,000 for an automated ballistics imaging system for our state police.

We have FBI and CIA available on the federal level as well. Why should we be redundant in manpower and funding?

Additionally, violent crimes in Maryland in 2022 has skyrocketed . There were approaching 25,000 violent crimes in 2022. The murder rate of 9.1 murders for every 100,000 people is the ninth highest among states. Maryland's robbery rate of 118 incidents per 100,000 is the highest in the nation.

To allocate Marylander's tax money on 'hate crimes' or 'domestic terrorism' when violent crimes and robberies are off the charts is a negligent use of our state revenue.

Interestingly, Washington state has submitted their own bill (HB1333) to adopt legislation that would set up a commission on 'domestic terrorism'. A study done there in 2022 warned that "effective State intervention to address these threats has the potential to implicate speech or association that may be protected by the First Amendment, or the individual right to bear arms protected by the Second Amendment". Additionally, when the Biden administration attempted to create their own commission on the federal level, they had to retreat from initiating it due to vociferous public criticism.

HB1075 refers to 'maximizing the role institutions of higher education play in researching and developing professional training on the prevention of violent extremist acts/raising awareness among the public about violent extremism, including violent extremism associated with hate crimes and domestic terrorism. This opens the door to incorporating students into identifying

people who align with the parameters that the state deems appropriate. There is no clarity in the bill to define exactly who or what is being targeted. This leaves open the risk of casting an extremely biased and subjective and partisan net that parallels the 'Ministry of Truth' the Biden administration tried to initiate.

According to a study (<https://mynorthwest.com/3843618/rantz-ag-ferguson-conservative-views-terrifying-extremism-commission/>) of the Washington state bill (1333), "groups and individuals opposing critical race theory, mask and vaccine mandates, election fraud, and grooming could be seen by the ODTR as 'anti-government' fascism and engendering white supremacy. This is not a road the proud state of Maryland should consider going down.

Finally, on the topic of 'hate crimes'. This bill makes me feel uncomfortable and concerned for my safety, therefore, the author of this bill could even be accused of committing a 'hate crime'. The definition of a hate crime is wide open to interpretation. I fear this bill will offer a path for our government to abuse it's power and violate my First Amendment Right to Free Speech and Peaceful Assembly

HB1075_Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Katherine Sullivan

Position: UNF

WITNESS: Katherine Strauch Sullivan
JURISDICTION: Baltimore County
BILL#: HB1075 (Cross filed SB785)
TITLE: Maryland Department of Emergency Management - Office of Domestic Terrorism Response

POSITION: UNFAVORABLE

The United States Department of Justice Reports the following:

- The number of crimes in Maryland classified as “hate” crimes in 2018: 50
- The number of crimes in Maryland classified as “hate” crimes in 2019: 19
- The number of crimes in Maryland classified as “hate” crimes in 2020: 40

Based on this limited data set, there is no clear “upward trend” which has been the narrative that has been pushed by our legislators to serve as the basic argument for this bill.

As well, there are already significant resources allocated to Maryland Public Safety:

- \$500 million [Re-Fund The Police Initiative](#) to increase support for state and local police
- An additional \$30 million to Victims of Crime Assistance (VOCA) grant recipients;
- \$2.1 million for a ZeroEyes gun detection pilot program;
- \$400,000 for an automated ballistics imaging system for the Maryland State Police crime lab.

And what are the results of all this tax-payer funded spending?

The most recent FBI Crime data on violent crimes in Maryland:

- 24,407 violent crimes were reported in Maryland in 2022. That’s roughly 400 violent crimes for every 100,000 people.
- Maryland’s murder rate of 9.1 murders for every 100,000 people is the ninth highest among states
- Maryland’s robbery rate of 118 incidents per 100,000 is the highest in the nation

BOTTOMLINE: Calling 40 hate crimes a “spike” is disingenuous at best and at worst, an irresponsible misrepresentation of the facts. No one denies Maryland has a failing Public Safety record but this is the wrong solution for this dangerous problem.

Spending millions MORE tax payer dollars to create yet another layer of government bureaucracy will only further distract from our mission which is to support and hold the local jurisdictions already in place accountable in keeping Marylanders safe.

I am vehemently opposed to HB1075 and urge all committee members to oppose this bill.

Sincerely,
Katherine Sullivan