

SB841 - Local School Systems - Student Field Trips

Uploaded by: Abigail Snyder

Position: FAV

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 Suburban Orthodox Congregation
 Temple Beth Shalom
 Temple Isaiah
 Zionist Organization of America
 Baltimore District

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

**SB841: Local School Systems - Student Field Trips - Funding
 Senate Budget and Taxation Committee | March 7, 2023**

SUPPORT

Background: SB841 would require the Governor to include an appropriation in the annual budget bill of \$500,000 for the State Department of Education to provide grants to local school systems for expenses related to student field trips to the Jewish Museum of Maryland (Baltimore), the Reginald F. Lewis Museum (Baltimore), The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (DC), and/or the National Museum of African American History and Culture (DC).

Written Comments: According to 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. According to the ADL, Maryland saw a 17% increase in the number of antisemitic incidents reported in 2021. Just last week, the American Jewish Committee released its fourth [State of Antisemitism in America](#) report, where key takeaways included that 41% of American Jews say they feel less secure than a year ago, and almost 6 in 10 Jewish young adults say antisemitism is taken less seriously than other forms of hate. Even in the 21st Century, both the Jewish and African American communities are forced to deal with similar hate-driven attacks.

One of the best ways to address this problem is to provide educational opportunities for individuals that they might not otherwise be able to experience. By establishing this \$500k appropriation for school field trips to the Jewish Museum of Maryland (Baltimore), the Reginald F. Lewis Museum (Baltimore), The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (DC), and/or the National Museum of African American History and Culture (DC), we are supporting the education of our students on the atrocities that have faced both communities throughout history.

For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report of SB841.

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.

SB 841 Local School Systems - Student Field Trips

Uploaded by: deborah miller

Position: FAV



Testimony in SUPPORT of *Senate Bill 841 –*
Local School Systems – Student Field trips
Budget and Taxation Committee
March 7, 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 all forms of hatred.

In our ongoing effort to tackle the increase in hate crimes, address antisemitism and racism, and educate students about our nation's past, the JCRC supports Senate Bill 841 to require the Governor to include an appropriation of \$500,000 in the annual budget for the Department of Education. This funding will provide grants to schools for certain student field trips, specifically visits to four area museums including The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Jewish Museum of Maryland, and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture.

Research shows that experiential learning - including museum field trips - enhances students' understanding of material taught in the classroom and often provides an opportunity for questioning assumptions and deeper reflection. The JCRC understands that a museum field trip will not end antisemitism, racism, or other forms of hatred; however, it is a tool that teachers can use to help educate their students about the real-life consequences of intolerance. For these reasons, we ask this committee to give a favorable report on Senate Bill 841.

Baltimore AROS Testimony in Support of SB 841.pdf

Uploaded by: Rebecca Yenawine

Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 841
Local School Systems - Student Field Trips - Funding
Budget and Taxation Committee
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
March 7, 2023
1:00pm

The Baltimore Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools (AROS) supports Senate Bill 841, and urges a favorable report on this bill.

Baltimore AROS gives our full support of SB 841 for the purpose of appropriation in the annual budget bill of \$500,000 for the State Department of Education to provide grants to local school systems for expenses related to student field trips to certain museums.

The Alliance to Reclaim our Schools (AROS) is a national coalition of parents, students and educators. In 2020 we formed a local chapter in Baltimore City. From November through December 2021, our coalition members conducted 11 listening sessions with over 300 students, educators and families in which they shared their thoughts about what is most needed to improve Baltimore City schools. Those conversations were organized into a draft platform of 14 items which were then voted on and prioritized by 1194 additional stakeholders who voted through our mobile voting pop ups at schools and community venues. Of the 1194 participants, 747 were students, 123 were staff, 223 were parents, and 100 were community members. As a result of this voting process, we were able to establish the following top five priorities for Baltimore City Schools.

Senate bill 841 reflects one of those top five priorities which is more resource classes, field trips and cultural experiences. This requires a commitment to dedicated funding.

Baltimore Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 841.

SB841_MSEA_Lamb_FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Lauren Lamb

Position: FWA

Testimony in Support with Amendments to Senate Bill 841 Local School Systems - Student Field Trips - Funding

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
March 7, 2023

Lauren Lamb
Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association supports, with an amendment, Senate Bill 841. This bill would require the Governor to include an appropriation in the annual budget bill of \$500,000 for the State Department of Education to provide grants to local school systems for expenses related to student field trips to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Jewish Museum of Maryland, and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students for the careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Engaging students with hands-on activities like field trips is among educators' most valuable tools to deepen students' understanding and promote critical thinking. This legislation would provide crucial resources to support such trips, with an emphasis on furthering students' knowledge of the history, contributions, and experiences of Black and Jewish communities in Maryland, the U.S., and the world.

The museums listed here are excellent options. There may be other high-quality, historically accurate, and culturally relevant museums that will support students' learning, and that are more geographically accessible to students in Western Maryland or Eastern Shore counties. We therefore propose an amendment to add to the list of permissible field trips: **"Another museum or historical site that is focused**



on the history and culture of underrepresented communities and that is approved by the State Board of Education.” This will allow for the opportunity to consider other field trip destinations, where appropriate, while ensuring their quality and relevance.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report, with the amendment included here, on Senate Bill 841.

SB0841-FWA-DTMG-3-7-23.pdf

Uploaded by: Olivia Bartlett

Position: FWA



Olivia Bartlett, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team

Committee: Budget and Taxation

Testimony on: SB0841 - Local School Systems - Student Field Trips - Funding

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Hearing Date: March 7, 2023

Bill Contact: Senator Benjamin F. Kramer

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with members in all districts in Montgomery County as well as in nearby jurisdictions. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep all Maryland residents healthy and safe in a clean environment, uplift all members of our communities, and promote equity across all our communities. DTMG strongly supported and advocated for the enactment of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and considers effective legislative funding of and oversight over the implementation of the Blueprint and enactment of other legislation to enhance public education to be among the legislature's highest priorities.

We applaud and support the provisions in SB0841 to provide funding for field trips to four museums— The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Jewish Museum of Maryland, and the Reginal F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture. Trips to these museums will provide needed education about important groups and events in Maryland and American history and culture.

However, the proposed appropriation of \$500,000 should be enlarged to also cover the cost of field trips to other important institutions and museums, such as the National Zoo, the National Aquarium, and the major museums in Baltimore and on the National Mall.

Members of DTMG have served as Montgomery County teachers and classroom volunteers. The volunteers in public schools serving less affluent communities in Montgomery County have concluded that many of the elementary school students in these schools have significant interest in animals, dinosaurs, space travel, and many other areas, yet have rarely, if ever, been to the National Zoo, Natural History Museum, the Space Museum, and other museums on the National Mall. In discussion with elected officials in Montgomery County, the value of such field trips are recognized, but they cannot be done because of funding limitations or the lack of available buses and drivers.

As Maryland and its newly elected Governor strive to address educational inequities as a top priority, substantially increasing the number of field trips, now that Covid-19 appears to be of much lesser concern, would result in substantial benefits at a relatively small cost. Therefore, DTMG strongly supports SB0841 with amendments and urges a **FAVORABLE** report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Olivia Bartlett
DoTheMostGood Maryland Team
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240-751-5599

230306-SB841-school-field-trips.pdf

Uploaded by: Christine Hunt

Position: UNF

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

March 6, 2023

Maryland General Assembly
Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee
Annapolis, MD

RE: SB 841-Local School Systems – Student Field Trips - Funding

Dear Senators,

We oppose SB 841 and respectfully request that you vote against it.

We are against our tax dollars going toward this funding. The schools and communities should be responsible for the expenses of their own field trips.

Sincerely,

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers