

SB842 - Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day Testimo

Uploaded by: Abigail Snyder

Position: FAV

OFFICERS

ELIZABETH GREEN
President

ROBIN WEIMAN
1st Vice President

AMALIA HONICK

BENJAMIN ROSENBERG

RABBI STEVEN SCHWARTZ

RABBI JONATHAN SEIDEMANN

MELANIE SHAPIRO

RABBI ANDREW BUSCH
Past President

HOWARD LIBIT
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Adat Chaim Congregation
American Jewish Committee
Americans for Peace Now
Baltimore Chapter
American Israel Public Affairs Committee
American Red Magen David for Israel
American Zionist Movement
Amit Women
Association of Reform Zionists of America
Baltimore Board of Rabbis
Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance
Baltimore Men's ORT
Baltimore Zionist District
Beth Am Congregation
Beth El Congregation
Beth Israel Congregation
Beth Shalom Congregation of
Howard County
Beth Tfiloh Congregation
B'nai B'rith, Chesapeake Bay Region
B'nai Israel Congregation
B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation
Bolton Street Synagogue
Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.
Chevrei Tzedek Congregation
Chizuk Amuno Congregation
Congregation Beit Tikvah
Congregation Tiferes Yisroel
Federation of Jewish Women's
Organizations of Maryland
Hadassah
Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation
J Street
Jewish Federation of Howard County
Jewish Labor Committee
Jewish War Veterans
Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary
Jewish Women International
Jews For Judaism
Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah
Hebrew Congregation
National Council of Jewish Women
Ner Tamid Congregation
Rabbinical Council of America
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

SB842: Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee | March 3, 2023

SUPPORT

Background: SB842 would require the Governor to recognize International Holocaust Remembrance Day annually in Maryland, declaring the importance of recognizing this day of reflection and remembrance.

Written Comments: The rise in antisemitic acts across the country over the past few years is not lost on the Jewish Community. According to the ADL, Maryland saw a 17% increase in the number of antisemitic incidents reported in 2021. Additionally, 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. Just last month, 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.

One of the best ways to prevent history from repeating itself is through education. In 2020, the first-ever [50 state survey on Holocaust knowledge of American Gen Z-ers and Millennials](#) was completed by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. Maryland was ranked among 9 other states to have the lowest Holocaust Knowledge Scores, including Alaska, Georgia, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, and Arkansas. It is clear that we have a lot of work to do.

By declaring Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day annually, we will be taking a needed step toward educating our community on the atrocities of the Holocaust; honoring the six million Jews who lost their lives during this time; and recognizing the survivors that still reside in Maryland.

For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report of SB842.

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 842 Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day.pdf

Uploaded by: deborah miller

Position: FAV



**Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 842 – Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day
Education, Energy and Environment Committee
March 3, 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 on a non-sectarian basis and to campaign for important policy interests on behalf of the Jewish community and all Marylanders.

In our ongoing effort to address the alarming rise of antisemitism and to strengthen Holocaust education throughout the State, the JCRC supports Senate Bill 842. The Bill establishes an annual Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27. The day is not arbitrary; it marks the liberation of the largest Nazi death camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, on this day in 1945. The date also coincides with the UN's International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The purpose is not only to commemorate the six million Jews and millions of others murdered, but also to promote Holocaust Education, in an effort to prevent future genocides.

Unfortunately, a recent survey found that two-thirds of Americans between 18 and 39 did not know that six million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust. Fifty percent could not name a single concentration camp, and nearly twenty-five percent thought the Holocaust was a myth or exaggerated. At the JCRC, Holocaust remembrance and education is one of our most sacred and critical responsibilities. Every year we hold a highly recognized annual Holocaust Remembrance service. We also regularly bring local survivors to our schools to meet with students and teachers. These efforts are necessary but not sufficient. Despite our educational outreach, antisemitism is at an all-time high leaving Jewish families feeling unsafe in their neighborhoods and students targeted in their schools. SB 842 will supplement and amplify educational initiatives like ours.

There is no panacea to prevent the rise of antisemitism or increase knowledge about the Holocaust. However, SB 842, which establishes Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day, is a concrete step against ignorance, intolerance, and hatred. It is only through empathy and understanding of our past that we can secure a more just present and future for our children. For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report on SB 842.

SB842_MCCR_Hughes_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Gerald Ford

Position: FAV



State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights

Respect...Integrity...Effective Communication

March 3, 2023

Senate Bill 842 – Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day

POSITION: Support

Dear Chairperson Feldman, Vice Chairperson Kagan, and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (“MCCR”; “The Commission”) is the State agency responsible for the enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, health services, and state contracts based on race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, physical and mental disability, and source of income.

Senate Bill 842 seeks to add to the Maryland General Provisions Article our state’s acknowledgement of a world-wide day of remembrance. Every year, January 27 is recognized by the international community as a day to reflect on the atrocities of the Holocaust, commemorate the lives that were taken, and honor those who fought for freedom. January 27 marks the anniversary of the day troops liberated the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps in 1945, signaling the end of the Nazi reign. In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to create International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and many countries and U.S. states have joined in to appreciate the importance of this horrific event. This year on January 26, President Joe Biden issued a statement to remind our nation of the significance of the following day and set an example in reaffirming our country’s commitment to combating antisemitism and renouncing complicity.

In 2023, many people in the State of Maryland continue to face intolerance, harassment, violence, and discrimination on the basis of religion, disability, and national origin. Additionally, as decade after decade goes by and Holocaust survivors and military members who fought in World War II age and pass away, our society is gradually forgetting the details of the Holocaust. Even more concerning, despite the plethora of historical records documenting the Holocaust, some individuals have increasingly spread false information about the Holocaust, even denying that it occurred at all. In light of these several worrying trends, our state must declare a day of Holocaust Remembrance and encourage all Maryland residents to take time to learn about the Holocaust and contemplate its cruelty and lasting effects, even 80 years later. Maryland shares in the responsibility of

“Our vision is to have a State that is free from any trace of unlawful discrimination.”

William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 Saint Paul Street, Suite 900, Baltimore, Maryland 21202-1631
Phone: 410-767-8600 • Toll Free: 1-800-637-6247 • Maryland Relay: 711 • Fax: 410-333-1841
Website: mccr.maryland.gov • E-Mail: mccr@maryland.gov

Governor
Wes Moore

Lt. Governor
Aruna Miller

Commission Chair
Stephanie Suerth, MPA,
CCEP

Commission Vice Chair
Janssen E. Evelyn, Esq.

Commissioners
Diane E. Bernier
Eileen M. Levitt, SPHR,
SHRM-SCP
Rabbi Binyamin
Marwick
Magdalena S. Navarro,
MSc
Jeff Rosen
Gina McKnight-Smith,
PharmD, MBA
Isabella Firth Shycoff

Officers
Executive Director
Alvin O. Gillard

Deputy Director
Cleveland L. Horton II

Assistant Director
Martine Chery

General Counsel
Glendora C. Hughes

**Director of Education
& Outreach**
Kara N. Hunt, Ph.D.

educating its people on one of the most important historical events of all time and keeping the memory of the victims alive for generations to come.

For these reasons, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights urges a favorable vote on SB 842. Thank you for your time and consideration of the information contained in this letter. MCCR looks forward to the continued opportunity to work with you to improve and promote civil rights in Maryland.

SB842_HadassahGB_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Harriet Rubinson

Position: FAV

**Testimony in Support of SB842
Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day
Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
March 3, 2023**

FAVORABLE

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee

FROM: Kay Schuster and Ellen Sizemore, Co-Presidents
Hadassah Greater Baltimore

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc. is steadfast in our fight against antisemitism and hate of all kinds. As the Greater Baltimore Region of Hadassah, representing over 4,100 Marylanders, we are writing to urge you to support SB 842, a bill requiring the Governor to annually proclaim January 27th as Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Hadassah believes that the twin threats of rising antisemitism and declining understanding of the Holocaust require sober reminders of the this dark period of recent history.

Hadassah turns its values into action every day, and we are committed to combating antisemitism. Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day can remind us what can happen when antisemitism and other racism and hate crimes go unchecked, so we can counter the rising intolerance in our communities.

We believe that teaching Holocaust history through a Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day is one way to combat today's antisemitism, racism, and hatred.

Knowing that hatred exists is not enough. We also have to take active steps to combat it. We strongly urge you to support SB 842.

Thank you,
Kay Schuster and Ellen Sizemore
Co-Presidents, Hadassah Greater Baltimore
P.O. Box 21571
Pikesville, MD 21282-1571
kschuster@hadassah.org
Esizemore@hadassah.org
P 410.484.9590