

**Testimony in Support with Amendments to Senate Bill 837
Education – Curriculum – Study of the Holocaust (Educate to Stop the Hate Act)**

**Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment
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The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 837 with amendments. This legislation would require the State Department of Education to develop guidelines and enhance instruction about the Holocaust in public schools for certain elementary, middle, and high school grade levels and require all public schools and certain nonpublic schools to include the revised and enhanced Holocaust instruction in school curricula beginning in the 2024-2025 school year.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. 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).

Maryland and the U.S. as a whole have seen a disturbing rise in antisemitic hate in recent years, manifesting in attacks, vandalism, and online harassment. It is therefore of the utmost importance that students receive a complete and accurate history education that comprehensively addresses the history of the Holocaust and underscores the dangers of prejudice, discriminatory policies, and abuses of power.¹²

¹'Way Out of Control': I-Team Examines Rise in Antisemitic Incidents in Montgomery County (2023).
<https://www.nbcwashington.com/investigations/way-out-of-control-i-team-examines-rise-in-antisemitic-incidents-in-montgomery-county/3266981/>

²Antisemitism is on the rise in the U.S., surveys say (2023).
<https://www.axios.com/2023/02/13/antisemitism-ajc-poll-survey-rise-online>



Revisiting social studies frameworks to ensure the inclusion of analysis of the roots, context, and impacts of the Holocaust provides an opportunity to enhance guidance on this issue. This bill represents a thoughtful effort to ensure that social studies curricular resources are up-to-date, rigorous, and reflective of the experiences, contributions, and history of communities as diverse as Maryland's student population.

In revising social studies frameworks, it will be critical to ensure that updated information is incorporated into the frameworks rather than added on to expand the quantity of instruction required. Educators have finite instructional time in the school year, and it is essential that in improving the accuracy and completeness of our curricular models, we do not reduce the overall time available for each standard.

MSEA applauds the allocation of funding for substantive professional development to enhance educators' content knowledge on teaching the Holocaust, and we want to highlight the importance of ensuring that said professional development will be paid and subject to collective bargaining. We look forward to continuing to work with the sponsor to clarify the language around instructional time and professional development.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report, bearing in mind the considerations noted here, on Senate Bill 837.