



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 837

FAVORABLE

Education – Curriculum – Study of the Holocaust (Educate to Stop the Hate Act)

TO: Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair, Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice-Chair, and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Rev. Linda K. Boyd, Co-Chair, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Maryland, Diocese of Maryland

DATE: February 22, 2023:

The Episcopal Church at large and the Diocese of Maryland in particular strongly supports including the study of the holocaust in our state curriculum. It seems inconceivable that there should be any opposition to this bill. To oppose this bill is to support the concept of genocide, mass murder and barbarism.

However, recent incidents of students appropriating and abusing Holocaust imagery have served as a reminder and a wake-up call for the need to teach the universal lessons of the Holocaust to help ensure that the next generation is getting the fullest understanding possible of the implications of the Nazi genocide of six million Jews and millions of others in Europe.

We believe strongly that learning about the Holocaust and lessons of unchecked anti-Semitism and racism is one of the best ways to fight prejudice and discrimination, and to help ensure that genocide and such atrocities never happen again.

The Diocese of Maryland requests a favorable report on SB 837.