### **SB 5 Hate Crimes Civil Remedy.pdf** Uploaded by: deborah miller



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#### Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 5 – Hate Crimes – Civil Remedy Judicial Proceedings Committee January 31, 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 strengthen Maryland's hate crimes laws, the JCRC supports Senate Bill 5-- Hate Crimes -- Civil Remedy. 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, Montgomery County Police Department's latest report on religious bias incidents shows that more than 85% targeted Jews, although they only make up only 10% of the County population. Furthermore, 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.

Senate Bill 5 authorizes a person who is aggrieved by an act that would constitute a violation of the State's hate crime laws to bring a civil action against the person or persons who committed the act and authorizes a court to award a variety of specified remedies. Those remedies include awarding economic damages, noneconomic damages, such as pain and suffering, emotional distress, mental anguish, loss of enjoyment, and loss of companionship. Although the State of Maryland already has strong hate crimes laws, for these reasons, we ask this committee to give a favorable report on SB 5.

# SB005 MCCR position Hate Crimes Civil Remedy.01.31 Uploaded by: Gerald Ford

### **State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights**

Respect...Integrity...Effective Communication "Our vision is to have a State that is free from any trace of unlawful discrimination."



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January 31, 2023

### Senate Bill 05 – Hate Crimes – Civil Remedy POSITION: Support

Dear Chairperson Smith Vice, Chairperson Waldstreicher, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Proceedings 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, and state contracts based upon 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 05 provides to a person who is the victim of a hate crime in Maryland, the right to bring a civil action against the person or persons who committed the violation. Maryland is, unfortunately, not immune from acts of hate and bias against members of our community. Each year the Maryland State Police ("MSP") forwards a copy of the State of Maryland Hate/Bias Report to MCCR. In its most recent report for calendar year 2021, MSP received 388 individual reports of alleged acts of hate and bias, up from the 375 reported in 2018. This was an average of 32 reported incidents per month. These incidents can include, but are not limited to, bodily harm and property destruction. While the law currently has criminal penalties of a fine and/or imprisonment for perpetrators of hate crimes, this bill would provide a civil remedy for victims to recover economic and non-economic damages associated with the unlawful act.

If a victim of unlawful discrimination in employment or housing files a complaint with the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights, the Commission is authorized by Title 20 of the State Government Article to seek financial relief for the victims of proven discrimination. MCCR finds that the standard in HB 13 is consistent with the spirit of Title 20, and thus is an appropriate tool for a victim to seek relief for harm caused by a hate/bias act.

For these reasons, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights urges a favorable vote on SB0005. Thank you for your time and consideration of the information contained in this letter. The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights looks forward to the continued opportunity to work with you to improve and promote civil rights in Maryland.

### 2023-01-31\_SB5 (Support).pdf Uploaded by: Hannibal Kemerer



**CANDACE MCLAREN LANHAM** *Chief of Staff* 

**CAROLYN A. QUATTROCKI** Deputy Attorney General

### STATE OF MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Facsimile No. (410) 576-7036

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO. (410) 576-6584

January 31, 2023

TO:	The Honorable Will Smith Jr. Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM:	Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General
RE:	SB 5 Hate Crimes – Civil Remedy (Support)

The Attorney General urges the Judicial Proceedings Committee to favorably report SB 5, Senator Kramer's legislation creating a civil cause of action for victims of hate crimes to seek redress from anyone who committed a hate crime against them. The legislation further provides for injunctive relief and economic and noneconomic damages, and reasonable attorneys' fees. In Section 10-309(d) of the bill, the legislation caps economic and noneconomic damages at three times the amount of actual damages. Importantly, if enacted, SB 5 would not undermine or supersede "any legal or equitable remedy otherwise provided by law."<sup>1</sup>

Adherents to extremist ideologies are on the rise, as are their hate-motivated crimes. "White nationalist hate groups rose fifty-five percent under the Trump administration."<sup>2</sup> Further, "FBI statistics . . . reveal that hate crimes jumped twenty percent during this time, with the vast majority committed by white supremacists."<sup>3</sup> In the face of these dire facts, it is important that victims of hate crimes not only have recourse to our criminal justice system, but that they may be made whole by holding the perpetrators of hate crimes accountable through civil remedies that include damages for pain and suffering. Moreover, the provision permitting reasonable attorneys'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>S.B. 5, 2023 Legis. Sess, 445th Gen. Assemb. (Md. 2023) § 10-309(e).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Suzette M. Malveaux, *Is It Time for A New Civil Rights Act? Pursuing Procedural Justice in the Federal Civil Court System*, 63 B.C. L. REV. 2403, 2464 (2022) (citing Jason Wilson, *White Nationalist Hate Groups Have Grown 55% in Trump Era, Report Finds*, The Guardian (Mar. 18, 2020), https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/18/white-nationalist-groups-southern-poverty-law-center).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> *Id.* (citing Daniel Villarreal, *Hate Crimes Under Trump Surged Nearly 20 Percent Says FBI Report*, NEWSWEEK (Nov. 16, 2020), https://www.newsweek.com/hate-crimes-under-trump-surged-nearly-20-percent-says-fbi-report-1547870).

fees will ensure that Maryland lawyers have ample incentive to represent victims of hate crimes in civil actions against their perpetrators.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of Attorney General urges a favorable report on SB

5.

cc: The Honorable Charlotte Crutchfield & Committee Members

## MAJ - Support - SB 5 - Hate Crimes Civil Remedy 20 Uploaded by: Josh Howe



#### SB 5 – Hate Crimes Civil Remedy

#### Favorable

The Maryland Association for Justice (MAJ) writes to provide information to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee with respect to pending legislation, Senate Bill 5 (Hate Crimes - Civil Remedy). SB 5 authorizes any person aggrieved by a "hate crime" to bring a civil action against the person or persons who committed the act, regardless of whether the wrongful conduct resulted in a criminal conviction. SB 5 permits the recovery of injunctive relief, and further authorizes the recovery of economic and non-economic damages proximately caused by the wrongful conduct at issue, as well as punitive damages.

Under current law, an action for economic damages may be brought against a tortfeasor who maliciously, or even negligently, defaces or otherwise damages property. However, SB 5 greatly expands current law by explicitly authorizing the recovery of non-economic damages in cases involving damage to property only. E.g., Md. Cts. & Jud. Procs. Code Ann. \$ 10-302 (hate crime" includes damage to real or personal property owned, leased or used by a religious entity). Maryland law does not allow the recovery of non-economic damages in the absence of a personal physical injury. The leading case, Green v. T.A. Shoemaker & Co., 111 Md. 69 (1909), established that rule, and the Court of Appeals recently applied the same rule in 2013, holding that homeowners were not entitled to recover non-economic damages despite their actual fear over the health effects of having ingested toxic chemicals allegedly spilled into their local drinking water. Exxon Mobil Corp. v. Albright, 433 Md. 303, 350 (2013) ("recovery cannot be obtained for mental distress without physical impact," unless "the emotional distress due to the tortious conduct is manifested objectively'). In this regard, SB 5 represents a significant change in the law. SB 5 further instructs the trial court to award three times the plaintiff's actual economic and non-economic damages, and also explicitly authorizes the recovery of punitive damages. This also represents a change from current law of punitive damages in tort cases, which requires actual malice"; § 10-302 provides an example of a "hate crime" that does not include any element of "intent" in its definition.

A House Workgroup on Punitive Damages found dozens of statutes in the Maryland Code, permitting the recovery of punitive damages for conduct with no discernible common theme. In addition, SB 5 is silent with respect to the standards applicable to a punitive damages award, including what evidence would be required. The Maryland Association for Justice urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to consider a global approach to punitive damages reform.

#### MAJ URGES A FAVORABLE REPORT

# Hate Crimes - testimony - senate - 2023 - SB5 FAV. Uploaded by: Lisae C Jordan



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

P.O. Box 8782 Silver Spring, MD 20907 Phone: 301-565-2277 For more information contact: Lisae C. Jordan, Esquire 443-995-5544 www.mcasa.org

#### Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 5 Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel January 31, 2023

The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) is a non-profit membership organization that includes the State's seventeen rape crisis centers, law enforcement, mental health and health care providers, attorneys, educators, survivors of sexual violence and other concerned individuals. MCASA includes the Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI), a statewide legal services provider for survivors of sexual assault. MCASA represents the unified voice and combined energy of all of its members working to eliminate sexual violence. We urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on Senate Bill 5.

#### Senate Bill 5 – Hate Crimes – Civil Remedy

This bill would provide a civil remedy for individuals who have been the victim of a hate crime, including when sexual assault or sexual harassment is motivated by gender, sexual orientation, gender-related identity or other protected characteristics.

Civil remedies give survivors of hate crimes access to civil justice and the ability to recover for damages for economic and noneconomic harms caused by the acts. The total cost of sexual assault to survivors was \$18 million in 2002 dollars. Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey. Tables 82, 2002. Fourteen percent of rape and sexual assault survivors lost time from work as a result of their victimization; 28% of those survivors lost 6-10 days. Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey. Tables 87, 89, 2002. Workplace sexual harassment can cost individuals anywhere from a few hundred dollars to \$1.3 million over a lifetime. Sexual harassment contributes to the gender wage gap and limits women's earning potential. https://timesupfoundation.org/work/costs-of-workplacesexual-harassment/ Trans and non-binary individuals face especially high rates of sexual assault. Nearly half (47%) of respondents to the 2015 Trans Survey were sexually assaulted at some point in their lifetime and one in ten (10%) were sexually assaulted in the past year. In communities of color, these numbers were higher: 53% of Black respondents were sexually assaulted in their lifetime and 13% were sexually assaulted in the last year. Far too many of these assaults were motivated by hate. Access to monetary judgements give survivors the ability to pay for therapy, make up for lost wages, and offset the very real financial impact of hate crimes. SB5 also gives the courts additional flexibility to issue injunctions and stop future hate crimes.

> The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on Senate Bill 5

# ADL Testimony SB5 - Hate Crimes - Civil Remedy.pdf Uploaded by: Meredith Weisel



### Maryland General Assembly Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee January 31, 2023

<u>Testimony of Meredith R. Weisel</u> ADL Washington D.C. Regional Director

ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) is pleased to submit this testimony in **<u>support of</u>** *SB5*, *Hate Crimes* – *Civil Remedy*, a bill that would afford hate crime victims a statutory cause of action to pursue civil remedies against those who have caused harm.

As you may know, ADL is a leading anti-hate organization committed to stopping the defamation of the Jewish people and to securing justice and fair treatment to all. Dedicated to combating antisemitism, prejudice, and bigotry of all kinds, as well as defending democratic ideals and promoting civil rights, ADL has long been recognized as a leading resource on effective responses to violent bigotry, conducting an annual *Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents* and drafting model hate crime statutes for state legislatures. We were also privileged to lead a broad coalition of civil rights, religious, educational, professional, law enforcement, and civic organizations for more than a decade in support of the 2009 Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA).

In 1981, ADL crafted the first model hate crime law in the country. Today 46 states, as well as the District of Columbia, have hate crime laws, many of which are based on or substantially similar to our model, which was unanimously upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition, at least 33 states, as well as the District of Columbia, grant hate crime victims a civil cause of action to pursue statutory claims for the harm that the hate crimes cause. These civil remedies provisions were also included in ADL's model hate crime statute, and they continue to be central to our hate crimes advocacy today.

Behind every hate crime statistic, there is a person, a family, a community – dealing with the unimaginable. Hate crimes cause a distinct type of harm that can have a lasting, immeasurable impact. This is because hate crimes target people due to their protected, immutable characteristics – race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, sex, gender, gender identity, disability – things about a person that are central to identity and cannot be changed.

In appropriate cases, civil remedies provisions can be incredibly powerful tools for hate crime victims. First, these statutory provisions make sure that victims can recover for the *harm caused by the bias motivation itself*, not merely for the damages that flow from underlying torts. Second, civil remedies provisions provide a necessary stopgap in cases where prosecutors, for any number of reasons, are unable to prove a bias motivation beyond a reasonable doubt. Indeed, in order to prevail on a civil legal claim, hate crime victims must simply be able to show, by a preponderance of the evidence, that they were targeted because of their protected characteristics. And finally, these provisions often afford hate crime victims certain remedies that may not otherwise be available to them. SB5, for example, would permit hate crime victims to seek

injunctive relief and reasonable attorney's fees and costs, as well as up to three times the amount of actual damages sustained, in any civil action filed under the statute.

There is unfortunately no magic wand that we can wave to undo the irreparable harm that hate crimes cause. Yet here in Maryland, we can make sure that our laws and our policies are crafted in a way that will help stem the rising tide and, to the maximum extent possible, help make victims whole. SB5 is one such measure.

### We accordingly urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to give SB5 a favorable report.

**SB 5 - WLCMD - FAV.pdf** Uploaded by: Michelle Siri Position: FAV



BILL NO:	Senate Bill 5
TITLE:	Hate Crimes – Civil Remedies
COMMITTEE:	Judicial Proceedings
HEARING DATE:	January 31, 2023
POSITION:	SUPPORT

Senate Bill 5 would provide a civil remedy for individuals who have been the victim of a hate crime. The Women's Law Center supports Senate Bill 5 because it gives victims of these reprehensible crimes a civil remedy to recover for damages for economic and noneconomic harms caused by the acts.

Hate crimes are motivated by prejudice and malice and are an attack on a victim's personal qualities - race, color, religious belief, sexual orientation and national origin. Hate crimes are intended to intimidate the victim and the victim's community, resulting in isolation and vulnerability. Therefore, these crimes can cause particularly profound emotional and psychological damages. Hate crimes also result in physical and economic repercussions similar to other crimes. Victims of hate crimes should have an avenue to access our justice system and the opportunity to be made whole after experiencing the economic and noneconomic damages of these threatening actions.

Hate crime laws matter. In addition to deterring criminal activity, they possess important symbolic meaning that signals to targeted communities that the government cares and that law enforcement will take their concerns seriously. Having worked with the Office of the Attorney General and a coalition of organizations for the past two years seeking to find ways to address the rise in hate crimes throughout the state, the WLC supports the civil remedy created by Senate Bill 5 and urges a favorable report.

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a private, non-profit, membership organization that serves as a leading voice for justice and fairness for women. Our mission is to ensure the physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy of women in Maryland. We advance our mission through direct legal representation, information and referral hotlines, and advocacy.

**SB5 BJC SupCivil Remedies .pdf** Uploaded by: Sarah Miicke Position: FAV

#### OFFICERS

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#### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

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#### WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 5 – Hate Crimes – Civil Remedy Judicial Proceedings Committee January 31, 2023 SUPPORT

**Background:** Senate Bill 5 (SB5) allows a hate crime victim to bring a civil action against the person or persons who committed the crime. While common law allows for such action, SB5 codifies the common law. Further, the bill would clarify the common-law option for awarding reasonable attorney's fees for hate crimes. Lastly, the bill would allow for treble damages, an enhanced monetary penalty awarded for egregious crimes.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council and Maryland's Jewish community are concerned about the recent rise in hate/bias incidents in Maryland and the damaging effect that is having on our communities. These incidents are impacting not just Jewish communities, but those of many of our other faith partners. According to the 2021 State of Maryland Hate/Bias Report authored by the Maryland State Police, Maryland experienced an average of 385 hate bias incidents each year from 2019 – 2021. These reported incidents targeted both individuals and some of our most vital arenas for community engagement, including schools, community centers, and places of worship. No place, person, or part of our state is immune to these kinds of hateful incidents. SB5 would serve as both a deterrent to committing hate crimes as well as a symbol to the especially vile nature behind them.

Over 30 other states have already codified civil actions for hate crimes. Maryland should follow in their steps so that a person or persons who are aggrieved by a violation of our hate crime laws can bring a civil action with enhanced financial penalties against the perpetrator of the crime.

With this in mind, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report of SB5.

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.

BALTIMORE JEWISH COUNCIL 5750 Park Heights Avenue, Suite 329 • Baltimore, Maryland 21215 410-542-4850 • fax 410-542-4834 • baltjc.org Baltimore Jewish Council is an agency of The Associated

Member of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs

The Associated

## **SB-0005\_NAACP.docx.pdf** Uploaded by: Willie Flowers



WILLIE FLOWERS; PRESIDENT

NAACP MARYLAND

SB-0005

1/31/2023

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE - IT IS WITH HUMAN COMPASSION AND CONCERN THAT I TESTIFY IN FAVOR OF SENATE BILL-5.

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT BILL FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND. WE ARE A STATE OF MANY DIVERSE CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS. WHILE WE EXPECT THE GOOD AND BEST OF PEOPLE SOMETIMES IT IS NOT SO.

IN 2017, A YOUNG STUDENT FROM BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY WAS CELEBRATING HIS UPCOMING GRADUATION. HE HAD ALREADY BEEN COMMISSIONED AS A 2ND LT. IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY. HIS NAME IS LT. RICHARD COLLINS, III. HE WOULD NOT LIVE TO SEE HIS GRADUATION BECAUSE HE WAS KILLED BY A RACIST WHITE SUPREMACIST ON THE CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COLLEGE PARK. I HAVE DEDICATED MY LIFE TO MAKE SURE THAT NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN.

I USE THIS STORY TO REMIND EVERYONE HERE THAT WHILE WE ALL PURSUE PEACE IN LOVE IN OUR LIVES IN THE WORK WE DO SOME PEOPLE DO THE OPPOSITE. THAT IS WHAT HATEFUL PEOPLE DO.

THIS BILL HELPS TO BRINGS THE APPROPRIATE ATTENTION TO HATE ACTS AND GIVES VICTIMS THE POWER TO RESPOND WITH CIVIL ACTION. THIS INCLUDES NON-ECONOMIC DAMAGES, EMOTIONAL DISTRESS, MENTAL ANGUISH, LOSS OF JOY AND LOSS OF COMPANIONSHIP. I URGE THAT HB-13 BECOMES LAW FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

I HAVE DEDICATED MY LIFE TO ALTER THE RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT USING PEACE AND LOVE AS AN ORGANIZING TOOL IN OUR SOCIETY. WHILE THIS BILL USES THE WORD HATE IN THE TITLE AND IS MEANT TO REMEDY WHAT WE SEE AS HATE IN OUR COMMUNITY THE ALTERNATE MOVE FOR REAL COMMUNITY GROWTH SHOULD BE A STEPS TOWARD LOVE.

IN CONCLUSION, ONE AMENDMENT I WOULD ADD WOULD INCLUDE ADDING LANGUAGE THAT HIGHLIGHTS THE GROWING POWER OF HATE ACTIONS, CRIMES AND INSULTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND THROUGH ELECTRONIC MEDIA. CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS, MYSELF INCLUDED, ARE CONSTANTLY THE TARGET OF HATE TALK IN SOCIAL MEDIA. IT IS HARD OUR US WHILE WE DO OUR WORK AND CHALLENGING FOR OUR FAMILIES. ANY LEGAL SUPPORT TO CURB IT WOULD BE HELPFUL.

THE MEMORY OF LT. RICHARD COLLINS, III WILL BE A REMINDER OF THE FACT THAT WE SHOULD ALL DO MORE TO MAKE SURE THAT HATE DOESN'T WIN AND LOVE PREVAILS. SB-0005 IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

> NAACP Maryland State Conference 8775 Cloudleap Court, Columbia, MD 21045 Suite 200 www.naacpmaryland.org

**Testimony.SB5.pdf** Uploaded by: Zainab Chaudry Position: FAV



January 31, 2023

Honorable Senator William C. Smith Jr. Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB5 – Hate Crimes – Civil Remedy

Dear Chair William C. Smith Jr. and Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee Members:

On behalf of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, I thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 5 Hate Crimes – Civil Remedy sponsored by Senator Benjamin Kramer. CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization.

Hate crimes in the United States impact a broad range of communities. They are a malignant outgrowth of prejudicial thoughts and beliefs which make our society less safe. Unlike other violent crimes, hate crimes are often motivated by ignorant, misguided beliefs about a group of people.

This bill authorizes a person who is the victim of a hate crime, as defined by state laws, to bring a civil action against the person or persons who perpetrated the act, and authorizes a court to award financial and other damages.

Part of the work that my organization does is focused on tracking and monitoring the prevalence of bigotry, prejudice and hate against American Muslim communities. According CAIR's 2022 civil rights report, *Still Suspect: The Impact of Structural Islamophobia,* our organization received a total of 6,720 complaints nationwide in 2021 involving issues including discrimination, hate and bias incidents.<sup>1</sup>

These complaints clearly indicate that discrimination and bias continue to have a substantial impact on American Muslims and further demonstrate that our communities continue to be viewed with hostility and suspicion.

Unfortunately, a vast percentage of such incidents go unreported, partly due to fear or mistrust of law enforcement agencies, cultural attitudes and other reasons. In fact, CAIR's New York office published a report in 2022, *Feeling the Hate: Bias and Hate Crimes Experienced by Muslim New Yorkers*, which found that only four percent of those who experienced a hate crime reported it to law enforcement because they either "do not trust law enforcement" or "feel it is not productive to report to such agencies."<sup>2</sup>

An increasing number of hate crimes reported to CAIR's Maryland office are targeting young people, including teens who wear hijab, or the Islamic headscarf, and are visibly Muslim.

Stronger hate crime laws will help deter hate/bias motivated incidents, signal that a society values religious pluralism and diversity and help promote trust within institutions and agencies tasked with public safety.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on SB5. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Zainab Chaudry, Pharm.D. Director, CAIR Office in Maryland Council on American-Islamic Relations Email: <u>zchaudry@cair.com</u> Phone: 410-971-6062

- 1. CAIR 2022 Civil Rights Report. *Still Suspect: The Impact of Structural Islamophobia.* https://www.cair.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Still-Suspect-Report-2022.pdf
- 2. CAIR-NY 2022 Report. *Feeling the Hate: Bias and Hate Crimes Experienced by Muslim New Yorkers*. <u>https://www.cair-ny.org/feeling-the-hate-full-report</u>