



Maryland General Assembly
House Health and Government Operations Committee
February 20, 2024

Testimony of Meredith R. Weisel
ADL Washington D.C. Regional Director

ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) is pleased to submit this testimony in **support of HB809, *Members of Boards, Committees, Commissions, Task Forces, or Workgroups – Removal or Suspension***, which would provide that a member of a board, committee, commission, task force, or workgroup created by State law may be removed or suspended for misconduct, incompetence, neglect of duties, or other good cause by the individual or entity that appointed the member under certain circumstances. The bill would further authorize the removal or suspension of an appointed member only after consultation with the chair of the board, committee, commission, task force or workgroup and the member has been given an opportunity to be heard regarding the removal or suspension.

ADL (the Anti-Defamation League)

Since 1913, the mission of ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) has been to “stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all.” For decades, one of the most important ways in which ADL has fought against bigotry and antisemitism has been by investigating extremist threats across the ideological spectrum and by working with law enforcement, educators, the tech industry, and elected leaders to promote best practices to effectively address and counter these threats. Further, ADL conducts an annual *Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents*, which is widely used by law enforcement, elected officials, and the community at-large to not only understand how to respond to antisemitic incidents, but how to create change.

House Bill 809

ADL has been proud to sit on various commissions, taskforces and working groups in Maryland. We understand and respect the need to have procedures put in place that would allow a member to be removed or suspended for actions that are neglectful of their duties as a member of one of these groups. HB809 will help provide guidance on how those procedures should be put forth. This will ensure that the integrity of each of these commissions, taskforces and working groups stays intact.

We urge the Committee to release HB809 with a favorable report.