



People on the Go of Maryland

HB 71

**Education - Holocaust Education Assistance
Grant Program - Established**

Establishing the Holocaust Education Assistance Grant Program in the Maryland State Department of Education, to assist local school systems with Holocaust education in public schools; authorizing a local school system to apply to the Department for a grant from the Program to be used for teacher training or teaching materials; and requiring the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$500,000 to the Program.

Position: Support

January 31, 2024

Sponsored by Delegate Edelson

Assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee

Written by Cody Drinkwater

People On the Go of Maryland

Honorable Chairperson, and distinguished members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

People On the Go of Maryland (POG) is a statewide self-advocacy organization, ran for and by those with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD), and our mission is to promote self-advocacy throughout the state.

It is in furtherance of this mission, that People On the Go provides this written testimony in support of HB 71 (HB0071).

People on the Go believes that teaching the Holocaust in local school systems is essential. The Holocaust was a terrible atrocity in which, Jews, LGBTQ people, and people of color were executed en masse, or forced to die from disease or starvation.

What is perhaps lesser known, is that people with disabilities were among the first to be euthanized. They were test subjects for the gas known as Zyklon B, which was used in the gas chambers of the concentration camps. About 200,000 people with disabilities were murdered between 1940 and 1945.

People on the Go believes that the grant opportunities that HB0071 would provide, as well as the teacher and education trainings that it would provide, are essential to ensure that education about the Holocaust remains a consistent and necessary staple in classrooms across Maryland.

This will not only ensure that people with disabilities who perished are remembered, but that we never forget the horrors of the Holocaust. Through education and through this bill, we can continue to maintain vigilance that such a dark episode in our world history never happens again. POG supports this legislation because the history of marginalized groups needs to be taught in our schools, including the history of those with disabilities.

For all of these reasons, People On the Go recommends support for HB 71. Thank you for your consideration.

Should you have any questions. Please contact Mat Rice.

Thank you,

Mat Rice, Executive Director

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