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Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
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Mr. Chairman,

I am writing in support of HB 1462 Maryland Campus Accountability and Modernization to Protect University Students Act of 2025. According to FBI data from 2018-2022, schools, colleges, and universities were the third most common place for a hate crime to be committed in the United States.¹ 2022 also saw the most hate crimes committed in a school, college, or university campus within this timespan, with 1,336, or 10 percent of total reported cases, reported nationwide.² Within the state of Maryland specifically, The Maryland Department of State Police's 2023 State of Maryland Hate Bias Report found that during 2023 there were a total of 951 hate biased incidents and 270 verified incidents reported by Maryland law enforcement, up from 467 reported incidents and 121 verified incidents that were reported in 2022.³ The two most common hate bias motivations in 2023 were anti-Black and anti-Jewish at 36.2 percent and 28.3 percent.⁴ The zipcode of the University of Maryland had over 50 percent of Prince George's 37 reported incidents, with 20-30 incidents being reported within the university's zipcode during the year.⁵

There has also been a sharp increase specifically in antisemitic and Islamophobic sentiments and actions on college campuses nationwide and within Maryland since the October 7th Hamas attacks and subsequent aftermath of the Israel-Hamas war. The Hillel International antisemitism tracker recorded 1,854 incidents on North American college campuses during the 2023-2024 school year, a nearly 640 percent increase from the 290 reported incidents during the 2022-2023 school year.⁶ As of February 26, 2025, the tracker has reported 1,227 incidents for the 2024-2025 school year.⁷ The ADL's Campus Antisemitism Report Card, updated on March 3, 2025 meant to provides information about the current state of antisemitism on campus and how universities and

¹ Barros Leal, Isabela Espadas. "Schools Are Increasingly Locations for Hate Crimes, FBI Data Shows." NBCNews.com, January 30, 2024.
<https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/out-news/schools-are-increasingly-location-hate-crimes-fbi-data-shows-rcna136341>.

² Id., at 1

³ State Police, Maryland Department of. "State of Maryland 2023 Hate Bias Report." Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center, 2024.
<https://mcac.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2021-Hate-Bias-Report.pdf>.

⁴ Id., at 4

⁵ Id., at 4

⁶ International, Hillel. "Antisemitism on College Campuses: Incident Tracking." Hillel International, February 26, 2025. <https://www.hillel.org/antisemitism-on-college-campuses-incident-tracking/>.

⁷ Id., 7

colleges are responding also grades University of Maryland Baltimore County as earning a D grade for a ‘deficient approach’ and University of Maryland College Park as earning a C grade for ‘correction needed.’⁸

Muslim Campus Life’s Campus Islamophobia Tracker, a tool for tracking anti-Muslim racism and Islamophobic incidents across the United States from March 2022 has recorded 139 of its 143 incidents after October 7th.⁹ An April 2024 Institute for Social Policy and Understanding report showed that 84% of Muslim students in a university trade or vocational program had experienced religious discrimination within the last year.¹⁰ One study conducted by the Chicago Project on Security and Threats (CPOST) and NORC poll from December 2023-January 2024 of 708 current and 4010 non-current students also found that just over 21 percent of current students and nearly 15 percent of non-current students agree with the idea that most Muslims living in the United States are more prone to violence than other people.¹¹

As a junior and Jewish student at the University of Maryland, I’ve personally witnessed many troubling instances of antisemitism on the University of Maryland campus in the wake of October 7th. There have been chants on campus during protests of “There is only one solution, intifada, revolution,”¹² this is despite the fact that the Second Intifada (2000-2005) marked widespread terrorist attacks and suicide bombings, with nearly 1,000 Israelis and 3,000-5,000 Palestinians dying in these attacks and bombings.¹³ Many of my fellow students have publicly spoken out about an increase in antisemitism on our campus and feeling unsafe on campus because of it.¹⁴ I have often found myself agreeing with these sentiments.

HB 1462 Maryland Campus Accountability and Modernization to Protect University Students or The Campus Act will provide training for all university faculty, administrators, and employees on how to appropriately respond to hate incidents of violence harassment or intimidation at the

⁸ League, Anti Defamation. “Campus Antisemitism Report Card.” ADL, March 3, 2025. <https://www.adl.org/campus-antisemitism-report-card>.

⁹ Life, Muslim Campus. “Campus Islamophobia Tracker.” Muslim Campus Life, 2024. <https://www.muslimcampuslife.com/islamophobia-tracker/>.

¹⁰ Ikramullah, Erum. “American Muslims, Especially Students, Most Likely to Experience Religious Discrimination.” ISPU, July 25, 2024. <https://ispu.org/ceasefire-poll-3/>.

¹¹ Pape, Robert A. “Understanding Campus Fears After October 7 and How to Reduce Them.” Chicago Project on Security and Threats, March 7, 2024. https://cpost.uchicago.edu/publications/cpost_understanding_campus_fears_after_october_7_and_how_to_reduce_them/.

¹² Gaur, Akshaj. “UMD Community Members Call for Ceasefire at Sit-in for Palestine.” The Diamondback, November 14, 2023. <https://dbknews.com/2023/11/14/umd-sit-in-palestine-ceasefire/>.

¹³ Foundation, Economic Cooperation. “ECF - Economic Cooperation Foundation: Second Intifada (Al-Aqsa Intifada, 2000–2005?).” Economic Cooperation Foundation, 2015. <https://ecf.org.il/issues/issue/230>.

¹⁴ Hellgren, Mike. “Maryland College Students Speak about Antisemitism on Campus as Hate Incidents Rise.” CBS News, December 11, 2023. <https://www.cbsnews.com/baltimore/news/maryland-college-students-speak-about-antisemitism-on-campus-as-hate-incidents-rise-baltimore-hamas-israel/>.

time and during the initiating, filing, and investigating of these complaints. There will also be a procedure set in place to report complaints and threats, including an option to submit anonymously. Campus offices of diversity will be required to include the five most targeted groups in the state police's annual Hate Bias Report in its programming, while each institution themselves will also be required to submit an annual report on the allegations and documented incidents of racial, ethnic, or religious violence, harassment, or intimidation that is reported to the school. Senior administrators will be required to meet annually with student religious organizations to discuss their anti-hate and discrimination policies as well as incidents that have taken place against any student, faculty member, administrator, or employee on campus, and the institutional time, place and manner policies for expressive activities. There will also be a \$500,000 Campus Community Grant Program in the Chancellor's Office to provide support for interfaith outreach and cultural collaboration between student groups.

Within the University of Maryland we already have a Bias Incident Support Services or BISS office out of the University's Office of Diversity & Inclusion that offers a way for students to report hate crime incidents directly to the university, while also offering support to other students affected and ongoing check-ins.¹⁵ BISS also operates a Bias Dashboard that provides information about reported incidents to anyone within the University of Maryland community.¹⁶ I believe that instituting this type of organization and its policies and methods can be beneficial if implemented on campuses across the state. I am also particularly encouraged at the idea of funding for interfaith events. One moment of dialogue between Jewish and Pro-Israel students and Students for Justice in Palestine students was created during a random encounter during a Students for Justice in Palestine walkout and protest back in November 2023.¹⁷ With more support I believe it's possible to create more moments and events of reflection and dialogue.

The Campus Act lays the groundwork for college campuses across the entire state to effectively provide protection and resources for all of its students that they've previously been lacking within the past few years, especially in the wake of October 7th.

I thank you for your consideration and I urge a favorable report on HB 1462.

¹⁵ Diversity and Inclusion, Office of. "Bias Incident Response Protocol." Office of Diversity and Inclusion, 2025. <https://biassupport.umd.edu/bias-incident-response-protocol>.

¹⁶ Id., 15

¹⁷ Dayanim, Nira. "At Universities, the Israel-Hamas War Has Been a War of Words. at UMD, a Moment of Dialogue." Mitzpeh, November 2, 2023. <https://umdmitzpeh.com/2023/11/02/at-universities-the-israel-hamas-war-has-been-a-war-of-words-at-umd-a-moment-of-dialogue/>.