

**Taylor Faust**

University of Maryland

02/27/2025

**House Appropriations Committee**

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1462 – The CAMPUS Act**

Dear Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Taylor Faust, and I am a junior at the University of Maryland. I never imagined that, in 2025, I would be standing here, pleading with lawmakers to protect me from hate on a college campus. I am testifying today in strong support of House Bill 1462 because, as a Jewish student, I have experienced antisemitism firsthand and have watched my university struggle to address the growing hate.

Every day I walk onto my campus and see flyers or chalked messages, some of which call Jews “settlers” who need to “go home,” and demand an “intifada revolution.” I have sat in a classroom where my peers, directed at me, claimed that “Jews always play the victim.” During SGA elections, a list was posted at UMD with every Jewish applicant’s name highlighted because the Jewish students “do not align with the same human rights beliefs.” Without any confirmation of my political beliefs, I was yelled at by several UMD students for being a “shame.” The University of Maryland has failed to effectively condemn or address these incidences. To this day, hateful flyers are still being distributed, protests continue, and Jewish students remain targets of harassment. **No one should feel unsafe at their own school.**

No meaningful action has been taken. Jewish students, including myself, feel unheard and unsafe. This is why House Bill 1462 is **critical** because it requires universities to adopt and enforce real anti-hate and anti-discrimination policies, ensure transparency in reporting hate incidents, and strengthen coordination with law enforcement when students feel threatened.

Everyone deserves to feel safe on their campus. Everyone deserves to feel supported by their university. Every student should know that the institution they attend will stand up against hate. **HB 1462 will ensure colleges are required to take action.**

Vote **in favor** of HB 1462 to protect all students on Maryland’s campuses who have been told their identity makes them a target.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Taylor Faust

University of Maryland