

Taylor Faust

Tfaust13@terpmail.umd.edu

University of Maryland

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Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Chair Senator Brian J. Feldman

Vice Chair Senator Cheryl C. Kagan

Members of the Committee

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 435 – Remove Discrimination in Education Act

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Taylor Faust, and I am a Junior at the University of Maryland. Like many others in my community, I have faced antisemitism on campus and have struggled to find the necessary support and resources to address it. I am asking you, begging you, to take action. I am testifying in strong support of Senate Bill 435 because Jewish students, like myself, deserve to be heard, and above all, safe.

As an advocate for Maryland's Jewish community, I have been told to my face that " Hamas has done nothing wrong." I have heard chants for an "intifada revolution." I have sat in a classroom where my peers, directed at me, claimed that "Jews always play the victim." The harassment continues with posters and chalk messages on campus that say "accept existence, or expect resistance," "there is only one solution," "go home settlers," and "Holocaust 2.0."

Despite these threats, the University of Maryland lacks the essential resources, expertise, and procedures to investigate and address antisemitism effectively. Jewish students frequently turn to me looking for support, especially when facing classroom discrimination, but right now, there are few meaningful options for recourse. Senate Bill 435 is not just necessary, it is urgent. This bill will establish a **Title IV Coordinator** on every campus in Maryland to ensure that antisemitism and other forms of discrimination are taken seriously. The rampant hate targeting Jewish students must be addressed, and universities must be held accountable.

Importantly, Title IV Coordinators will not only support Jewish students— they will protect **all** students. Hate is a disease— it spreads, and if left unchecked, it consumes everything in its path. Today, my community is under attack, but discrimination is a widespread and growing issue. Passing SB 435 will send a **clear message**: hate and discrimination have no place in our learning environments.

I urge you— please vote **in favor** of SB 435 to protect me and all other students from discrimination and hate. Protect every student who just wants to feel safe on their own campus.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Taylor Faust

University of Maryland