

Uriel Appel

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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 847 – The CAMPUS Act

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

My name is Uriel Appel, and I am a third-year student at the University of Maryland. I am testifying today in strong support of Senate Bill 847 because, as a Jewish student, I have personally experienced antisemitism on my campus and have seen firsthand how universities struggle to address hate incidents effectively.

In November of 2023, the administration of UMD hosted a town hall meeting at the Jewish center of our campus, Hillel, following a pro-Palestinian riot chanting for an intifada. The Intifada was a movement in 1987 and in 2000 calling for the murder and eradication of the Jews, resulting in the death of over 1,500 individuals. In response, the university admins held a town hall meeting with 250 Jewish students in the Hillel building, where they told us that the Intifada was a peaceful protest. Another admin stated that our fear was only in our heads.

When antisemitic incidents happen, universities often fail to take meaningful action, leaving Jewish students feeling unsafe and unheard. SB 847 is crucial because it will require all colleges and universities in Maryland to adopt and enforce strong anti-hate and anti-discrimination policies, improve transparency in reporting hate incidents, and strengthen coordination with law enforcement when students are threatened.

My peers and I deserve to feel safe and supported on their campuses. I urge you to vote in favor of SB 847 to ensure Maryland's colleges and universities take real action against hate.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Uriel Appel
University of Maryland, College Park