

## SB 847 - The Maryland Campus Accountability and Modernization to Protect University Students (CAMPUS) Act

Position - Favorable

March 3, 2025

To the Honorable Chair and Members of the Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee.

My name is Lesley Frost and I am the Co Chair of National Council of Jewish Women, Maryland State Policy Advocacy Committee (NCJW MD SPA) and I am writing to express strong support for SB 847.

The incidents of antisemitism and student harassment in Maryland have significantly increased since the October 7 Massacre, and our institutions of higher education have either been slow, or have failed to implement policies and procedures to protect their Jewish students. This bill, SB847, modeled on the Ohio Campus Act of 2024, would require institutions of higher education to adopt and enforce a policy regarding racial, religious, and ethnic harassment and intimidation at the institution. This would include training for staff, procedures for investigating complaints, and collaborating with local law enforcement. In addition institutions of higher education would be required to create a campus task force to combat antisemitism, Islamophobia, hatred, harassment, bullying, or violence toward others on the basis of their actual religious identity.

It is imperative that Jewish students are able to continue their higher education in a safe environment., and passage of this legislation would assure parents and the Jewish community at large that their concerns have been heard and remedies to prevent and address future incidents are in place.

The NCJW MD SPA's support for SB847 is based on our resolutions III.1 "The elimination of antisemitism" and resolution IV.1, "The enactment, enforcement, and preservation of laws and regulations that protect civil rights and individual liberties for all."

On behalf of the more than 700 advocates of the National Council of Jewish Women in Maryland, I strongly urge the committee to support SB 847, The Maryland Campus Accountability and Modernization to Protect University Students (CAMPUS) Act.

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