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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 Einav Tsach and I'm a proud Terp at the University of Maryland, College Park. I'm honored to be testifying in strong support of Senate Bill 847.

I write to you as an Israeli immigrant to the United States, a grandson of Holocaust survivors, representing my nearly 6,000-strong Jewish and Israeli campus community - a community that continues to grapple with the explosion of campus antisemitism on Oct. 7, 2023.

Here are some examples:

Last school year, someone chalked the phrase "Holocaust 2.0" on the ground of a main plaza on campus – on the anniversary of the Kristallnacht pogrom. A few weeks ago, the words "Smash Zionism" were chalked on that same plaza (it was International Holocaust Remembrance Day). Posters advertising our Hillel's Birthright trips have been vandalized and stolen. And I can't count how many times I've been stared at or received jeers of "Free Palestine" simply because I'm visibly Jewish and Israeli.

This is not normal. Jewish students should not have to deal with constant attacks on who they are. No student, no matter their identity, should either.

Times like this demand action, and this bill would make a fundamental difference in combating hate on campus. This legislation would help students better understand what resources they have if they are victims of hate. It would raise awareness through trainings across campus communities, creating an environment of mutual support between peers. By mandating a strong institutional response to incidents, this bill would demand accountability from perpetrators of hate.

These changes can help stop the cycle of hate that my community and others have faced. I urge you to take a strong stand against hate of any kind and vote YES on this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Einav Tsach
University of Maryland, College Park