

**Testimony in Opposition of HB 1395 – County Boards of Education – Volunteer Aides –
School Chaplain**

Presented to the House Ways and Means Committee

March 6, 2025

UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice chair Wilkins and members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Daniel Golombek, and I am a resident of district 11B. I am writing in opposition of bill HB1395 (County Boards of Education – Volunteer Aides – School Chaplain).

First, the bill not only violates the separation of church and state, but as written is extremely vague on the guidelines for hiring and the qualifications for these positions. How are these people going to be vetted? There are no requirements for having educational or counseling education. There are no provisions to prevent these chaplains from promoting their religion when what is needed are professionals that will help these students in need.

For these reasons, voting in favor of this bill will be a very bad precedent for Maryland schools.

I ask the committee to make an unfavorable report on HB 1395.

Thank you.

Daniel Golombek

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