



HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

JANUARY 23, 2025

HOUSE BILL 71

EDUCATION – HOLOCAUST EDUCATION ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM – ESTABLISHED

SUPPORT

Agudath Israel of Maryland speaks on behalf of the Orthodox Jewish communities across Maryland, on behalf of the 10,000 students attending 30 Jewish day schools in our great state, and on behalf of many Jewish survivors of the Holocaust and their families, who are such an important part of our communities.

While the geographical location of the perpetuation of the Holocaust may have been confined to Europe and northern Africa, its ramifications know no boundaries. Those who do not learn history, it is famously said, are doomed to repeat it. Enabling educators to provide proper Holocaust education is therefore a most worthy endeavor. Students can learn the value and importance of tolerance, of respect for all, and of refraining from dehumanizing others.

In light of the frightening resurgence of hate and resentment in today's times, it is all the more important that we remember the sobering lessons of the past. In addition to those who gleefully engage in Holocaust denial, we are all too familiar with instances where individuals invoke the Holocaust to describe situations or individuals that, in reality, bear little to no resemblance to that horrific event. Such comparisons often stem from a lack of awareness about the realities of the Holocaust. By accurately teaching children about this dark chapter in history, we can help prevent the trivializing the Holocaust and preserve its seriousness.

We respectfully request the members of the committee to help schools further Holocaust education by giving a favorable report on House Bill 71.