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Written Testimony
Senate Bill 293 - County Boards of Education – Antibias Training for
Members – Requirement
County Board Member Antibias Training Act
Ways and Means Committee – March 19, 2025
Support

Background: Senate Bill 293 would require each member of a county board of education to complete certain antibias training at least once during the member's term.

Written Comments: It's impossible to turn a blind eye to the increased hateful rhetoric that is plaguing our school systems across the State. In 2024, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation that would require all public school employees to undergo biennial antibias training. This was part of the Speaker's "Decency Package," and the Baltimore Jewish Council was grateful for this effort to incorporate cultural awareness and reduce implicit bias using evidence-based guidelines.

Piggybacking on last year's legislation, this bill would require the same antibias training that is crafted for school employees to be carried out for school board members once during each term served on the County School Board. This training would be performed separately from that which education staff receive. This is a critical step to fill a gap in last year's legislative efforts. It is imperative that members of our School Boards, as the decision-makers for what goes on in our school systems, are also educated around cultural awareness and preventing implicit bias. This is an essential piece of the puzzle to combat antisemitism and hate in our State.

For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Councils asks for a favorable report on SB293.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.