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MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE  
**JEWISH  
CAUCUS**

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

### FAVORABLE

### HB 71 - Holocaust Education Assistance Grant Program

Ways & Means Committee

January 23, 2025

The Maryland Legislative Jewish Caucus (MLJC), a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates, strongly supports HB 71, establishing a Holocaust Education Assistance Grant Program within the Maryland State Department of Education.

This legislation comes at a critical time. Documented incidents of antisemitism have skyrocketed across Maryland, rising by 211% in Maryland,<sup>1</sup> and by 140% nationally between 2022 and 2023.<sup>2</sup> Curbing this trend is complex, but research shows those who receive Holocaust education are less likely to use antisemitic tropes and are more “empathetic, tolerant and engaged students generally.”<sup>3</sup> This education is, therefore, an important tool in combating antisemitism, a key mission of the MLJC.

The Maryland State Department of Education is currently enhancing its 6th and 7th-grade Social Studies curriculum to include more robust coverage of antisemitism, World Wars I and II, and the Holocaust. Recent surveys from the American Jewish Committee and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany show that a significant portion of young people have little to no knowledge of important details about the Holocaust. HB 71 provides essential funding to ensure educators receive the proper training and resources to effectively deliver this important curriculum to Maryland students.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Jewish Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 71.

1 ADL Audit Finds Frightening Levels of Antisemitic Incidents in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia in 2023.

<https://dc.adl.org/news/adl-audit-finds-frightening-levels-of-antisemitic-incidents-in-maryland-virginia-and-the-district-of-columbia-in-2023/>

2 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents

[https://www.adl.org/resources/report/audit-antisemitic-incidents-2023?\\_ga=2.184533925.2088](https://www.adl.org/resources/report/audit-antisemitic-incidents-2023?_ga=2.184533925.2088)

3 Echos & Reflections: A College Survey

<https://echoesandreflections.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Updated-6.14.2023-College-Survey-Summary-Article-September-2020.pdf>