



Maryland General Assembly

Appropriations Committee

February 10th, 2026

Testimony of Lily Fleischmann

ADL Washington D.C. Assistant Regional Director

Chair Barnes and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lily Fleischmann, and I serve as Assistant Regional Director of ADL's Washington, D.C. Regional Office. I am also a recent graduate of the University of Maryland, where I served as president of the School of Public Policy's Student Government Association. I submit this testimony in strong support of House Bill 109.

As a Jewish student, I experienced firsthand the devastating effects of antisemitism on campus, where myself and friends of mine often felt unsafe displaying our Jewish identities. According to ADL's Audit of Antisemitic Incidents, Maryland had 107 incidents at K-12 institutions in 2024, ranking 3rd in the nation and accounting for 12% of all K-12 cases in the U.S. Maryland had 33 incidents at colleges and universities in 2024, ranking 15th highest nationwide. My experience combatting antisemitism in high school and college is what led me to work at ADL. In my role, I speak with students who are navigating discrimination and harassment in their schools, and what I hear is a fundamental problem: "There is no one I can go to at my school who will take this seriously, help me understand my options, and make sure my complaint does not disappear." Even when institutions have civil rights staff or policies in place, too many students don't know who that person is, don't know where to start, or fear nothing meaningful will happen. ADL's campus climate research reflects this barrier: among students who did nothing in response to antisemitic incidents, a common reason was that they "weren't sure what to do." This lack of clarity and coordination is something I have heard echoed by students across the country, including many in the University System of Maryland.

House Bill 109, which would establish Title VI coordinators in Maryland's educational institutions, presents an overdue common-sense solution modeled after the effectiveness of Title IX coordinators. ADL has long advocated for Title VI coordinators to ensure compliance with the

federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and to promote equity and accountability. Coordinators should be trained to assess reports of discrimination, provide clear and accessible reporting mechanisms, and ensure timely investigations and transparency. These roles would help consolidate reporting processes and alleviate the confusion students like me have faced in moments of need, while better equipping educational institutions to respond to and protect their students.

Title VI coordinators would also enhance the ability of schools to track and address trends in harassment and discrimination. This includes conducting annual campus climate surveys and maintaining data dashboards with anonymized incident trends to promote transparency and accountability. These measures are not just about compliance, but about fostering trust and safety for all students.

This legislation is not limited to protecting Jewish students—it addresses the rising tide of bias and discrimination that impacts all students. Every victim deserves to be listened to. Students should be able to easily access information about what help is available to them after a bias incident rather than wonder whether their school will take action.

As a proud Maryland terrapin, I would love to see our great state take this important step to protect students. The University System of Maryland, with its history of excellence, has an opportunity to set a standard in ensuring equity, safety, and accountability for all students.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to support and advance House Bill 109. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lily Fleischmann

Assistant Regional Director

ADL Washington D.C.