



## **HB418 County Boards of Education - Symbols of Hate - Policy**

*Friday, February 5, 2021*

### WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE **SUPPORT**

Our names are Olivia Le, Zachary McGrath, and Florence Tian and we are students of Anne Arundel County and part of the Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils and support HB418 County Boards of Education - Symbols of Hate - Policy. This bill prohibits a person from displaying a symbol of hate on clothing, book bags, folders, or similar items, apart from displaying a symbol of hate as an example in a course of study, as well as requiring a county board to develop and distribute certain educational materials regarding the policy to each public school.

CRASC condemns the use of behavior and actions that exhibit hate and bigotry at Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) and we promote safe and inclusive school environments (Plank V, Clause D). In addition, the Official CRASC Platform that CRASC supports the promotion of a safe and inclusive school environment (Plank V, Clause D). CRASC also explicitly states that CRASC supports that legislation which at the state, federal, or county level, would reduce bullying, with the inclusion of bullying based on hate (Plank VI, Clause A), in addition to supporting those measures which would address school violence, vandalism, harassment, and bullying among students, with the inclusion of violence, vandalism, harassment, and bullying based on hate (Plank VI, Clause B).

There is much work to be done when it comes to eradicating hate speech and bigotry. However, CRASC supports this bill, which would prohibit the display of hate symbols on clothing, book bags, folders, and similar items, except for as an example during a course, as a committed and promising step towards eradicating hate speech and bigotry.

Accordingly, CRASC respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB418.

Respectfully Submitted,

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