

## House Bill 418

Maryland General Assembly,

I'd like to start off by thanking you for your time. Thank you for reviewing this bill and many others similar to this in hopes of bettering our state. House Bill 418 is intended to ban hate symbols (including nooses, Swastikas and Confederate flags) in schools. These symbols were created over 100 years ago with the intension of representation, though what where they standing for? Millions of homicides, racial segregation and cultural discrimination are the result of what these hate symbols supposedly stand for. Hate symbols in schools are unfair as they often intimidate those of color and other cultures these symbols are directed towards. While attending a predominately white school as a Chinese American, I myself have felt uncomfortable seeing Confederate flags on binders shirts and stickers. I can only imagine how those who hate symbols are projected towards feel when seeing these plastered throughout the school. Not only are hate symbols outdated and unjust, but we as a nation cannot move forward while these symbol are still allowed in schools. We have a duty to teach our younger generations the wrong doings in the past, but also to move forward and look to the future. If we continue to allow kids to wear and support what these hate symbols stand for, we subject them to the same outcome we are currently stuck in. That being the older generations believing in outdated practices and the younger generation trying to convince them otherwise. If we change nothing, we continue on the same track we've been on for over 50 years. We currently have the opportunity to change this path, why would we turn down that possibility? I thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,

Ellie Borton