

Christopher Gottlieb  
21053

Dear Maryland General Assembly,

I hope to convince you with this testimonial that banning hate symbols within the education system will promote a higher standard for diversity and inclusion in my rural town.

Confederate flags are a common symbol that is worn by several students in my area, and it is hard to imagine how black students feel when they look at these symbols. It represents a time where they were tortured for the mere color of their skin, and to see this symbol present in their everyday lives should not be an accommodation they have to deal with.

There is no benefit for allowing students to wear the confederate flag or other hate symbols as its root cause is to uplift the systematic oppression black peoples have had to face since the Civil War. It upholds old beliefs and harps on the need for overcoming diversity.

Banning the use of hate symbols will not only ensure a safe space for black students and people of color to thrive, but it can also present a chance to educate those who wear the symbol on how it is harmful and detrimental to other students' character.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Gottlieb