

**Testimony in Support of HB1244
Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day
Health and Government Operations Committee
March 15, 2023**

FAVORABLE

TO: Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Kay Schuster and Ellen Sizemore, Co-Presidents
Hadassah Greater Baltimore

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc. is steadfast in our fight against antisemitism and hate of all kinds. As the Greater Baltimore Region of Hadassah, representing over 4,100 Marylanders, we are writing to urge you to support HB1244, a bill requiring the Governor to annually proclaim January 27th as Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Hadassah believes that the twin threats of rising antisemitism and declining understanding of the Holocaust require sober reminders of the this dark period of recent history.

Hadassah turns its values into action every day, and we are committed to combating antisemitism. Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day can remind us what can happen when antisemitism and other racism and hate crimes go unchecked, so we can counter the rising intolerance in our communities.

We believe that teaching Holocaust history through a Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day is one way to combat today's antisemitism, racism, and hatred.

Knowing that hatred exists is not enough. We also have to take active steps to combat it. We strongly urge you to support HB1244.

Thank you,
Kay Schuster and Ellen Sizemore
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