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- Shomrei Emunah Congregation
- Suburban Orthodox Congregation
- Temple Beth Shalom
- Temple Isaiah
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Baltimore District

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**  
**Senate Bill 1058 – Educate to Stop the Hate Act**  
**Ways & Means Committee - March 27, 2024**  
**SUPPORT AS AMENDED**

**Background:** Senate Bill 1058 would require county boards of education to establish curriculum guides and courses of study of marginalized groups with particular interest on historical context and root causes that are aligned with content standards developed by the State Department of Education and require the State Board of Education to withhold funds from county boards that fail to do so.

**Written Comments:** It's impossible to turn a blind eye to the increased hateful rhetoric that is plaguing our school systems across the State. Whether it's a swastika next to the words "kill the Jews" in the bathroom at Pikesville Middle School; threats to black students at Middletown Middle School; or the numerous antisemitic incidents occurring in Montgomery County Public Schools, this is an epidemic and we must do something to address it.

SB1058 takes a bold step to help educate our young people, by requiring local boards of education to update history curricula to include the topics of genocide, torture, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the treatment of ethnic and religious minorities; the history and contributions of historically disadvantaged groups; and the history of genocide, including the Holocaust. This will ensure better understanding of those who may not look like us or come from similar backgrounds.

Maryland is on the path of updating its curriculum about the Holocaust. In a [memo published by the Interim State Superintendent of Schools](#) on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, the new 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies curriculums outline the inclusion of lessons on antisemitism and "analyzing the impact of physical geography, nationalism, World War I and II, and the actions of international organizations, the Holocaust, and the founding of Israel." However, with the increasing incidents of antisemitism in classrooms and across our younger populations, it's important that we expand on these efforts even further.

**For these reasons the Baltimore Jewish Council asks for a favorable report as amended on SB1058.**

*The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.*