

Advocacy

Maryland Jewish

DAY RECEPTION 2025



Addressing Hate on College Campuses

Sponsored by the chairs of the Jewish Caucus, this bill aims to address the antisemitic and hate incidents that have surged on college campuses in recent years. Since the October 7th massacre and resulting Israel-Hamas War, encampments and protests have popped up on many of Maryland's campuses, leaving Jewish students feeling unwelcome and lost. In 2024, the Ohio Legislature passed the Ohio CAMPUS Act, which we are endeavoring to model here.

The Maryland Campus Accountability and Modernization to Protect University Students (CAMPUS) Act (Sen. Shelly Hettleman/Del. Jared Solomon)

This bill would require both public and nonpublic institutions of higher education to adopt and enforce a policy regarding racial, religious, and ethnic harassment and intimidation at the institution while minding an individual's first amendment rights. This would include training for staff, establishing procedures for investigating complaints, and collaborating with local law enforcement. Annual reporting to the Maryland Higher Education Commission of all harassment and intimidation complaints will be required.

Additionally, each institution of higher education would be required to create a campus task force on combating antisemitism, Islamophobia, hatred, harassment, bullying, or violence toward others on the basis of their actual religious identity or what is assumed to be their religious identity at the institution.

Why is this important to the Jewish Community?

It is important that Jewish students feel safe as they seek higher education. By establishing these safeguards and reporting mechanisms on college campuses, there will be direct ways that they can act if they feel that they are being harassed or intimidated.