



SUPPORT INSTRUCTION OF THE HOLOCAUST AND THE HISTORY OF GENOCIDE IN MAINE SCHOOLS

HP. 150: An Act To Require Instruction on the History of Genocide and the Holocaust. [Read the full bill here.](#)

SP. 74: An Act To Require Education about African-American History and the History of Genocide. [Read the full bill here.](#)

“Never Again:” Ensuring that future generations of Maine students learn from past and present identity-based hate.

This legislation will:

- **Require Maine students to learn about acts of genocide**, and the discriminatory and genocidal laws of the Holocaust, which have impacted groups of individuals based on race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical disability, or national origin.
- **Guarantee that Maine students receive a comprehensive history education.** Both bills mandate the teaching of the history of genocide—including the Holocaust. These topics are central to national and global history, and its inclusion in Maine education would give students a more holistic understanding of the value of fighting hate in all forms.
- **Mandate the teaching of African-American studies, in the case of bill SP.74.** The Senate component of this legislation requires the Department of Education to convene a volunteer advisory group to help develop the contents of this curriculum. Group members may consist of scholars on African-American history, leaders in state African-American civil rights organizations, and members from the general Maine public whose knowledge and life experience may inform this curriculum.
- **Help stem the rising tide of hatred and bigotry** by reaffirming Maine’s commitment to ensuring that young people understand the historical significance of genocide, as a reminder of what happens when hatred and intolerance go unchecked.

This legislation is important because:

- **Hatred and antisemitism are on the rise and frequently take place within K-12 schools.** ADL’s [2020 audit of antisemitic incidents](#) provides the most recent and comprehensive survey of how hate crimes are rampant in our communities.
- **Memory of prior atrocities is fading.** According to one recent survey, for example, 22% of American millennials have either never heard of the Holocaust or are unsure whether they have heard of it. Only 35% of all Americans know about the

Armenian Genocide. Yet, 76% of Americans believe education about the history of genocide can help prevent future atrocities.

- **Education is key to combating hate.** By learning about the Holocaust and other genocides, students will have the opportunity to explore how stereotypes, prejudice, and religious, racial, and ethnic hatred can escalate to violent atrocity.

How can I help gather support for these bills?

- **Contact your local politicians!** Later in this document, there are links to lists of Maine state representatives and senators. Use one of the phone call or email templates to reach out to your legislators and express why these bills are important to you and your community!
- **Share this document!** Circulate this document and its accompanying resources to friends, neighbors, family members, and colleagues. Legislators want to see that the Maine constituents they represent feel passionate about these policies if they are going to vote to pass them. So, do what you can to make sure that as much of the state as possible gets word of these bills!
- **Post on social media!** Advocate for these bills on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, or other social media platforms. Feel free to use the social media post ideas suggested in this document.
- **Prepare testimony and attend the hearing!** Once a hearing for these bills is scheduled in the state Senate and House of Representatives, it is important that community members who feel personally connected to the legislation submit testimony to the hearing advocating for the importance of these bills. Even if you don't submit testimony, attending the hearing is a strong signal to politicians that the Maine general public is committed to supporting their students and passing these bills.

Bills Presented by Rep. Justin Fecteau (HP. 150) / Sen. Louis Luchini (SP.74)

Interested in learning more about how you can support? Contact ADL New England at newengland.adl.org/contact