

## **Written Statement**

### **Testimony and Statement for the Record for**

**M. Saud Anwar, M.D., M.P.H., F.C.C.P.,**

**Co-chair American-Muslim Peace Initiative,  
Mayor of the Town of South Windsor.**

**Supporting Raised Bill #452**

**An Act concerning the inclusion of holocaust and genocide education and awareness in social studies curriculum.**

**February Session of 2018**

**March 14<sup>th</sup> of 2018,  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106.**

Honorable Chairperson, Senator Slossberg, Rep Fleischmann and Senator Boucher, Vice Rep Sanchez, Sen Bye and Sen. Somers, ranking members Rep Lavielle, and honorable members of education committee, thank you for allowing me to testify in support of the Act to include holocaust and genocide education and awareness within the social studies curriculums.

After the Holocaust, most nations accepted and understood the meaning of, “Never Again.” Sadly, it seems they have forgotten, or chosen to ignore, the horrors that people inflict on others. We continue to witness humanitarian abuses and genocide throughout the world. A calculated program of rape, murder and genocide is taking place in Myanmar, as we speak. The Rohingya have been forced to take refuge in Bangladesh. Nazi sympathizers spew vitriol on the internet and march in our cities.

I am unable to testify in person because I am preparing for a trip to Bangladesh to assist or offer medical aid and support to Rohingya refugees. As a part of the civilized world, we sometimes forget our pledge of “Never Again.” We must not only learn from history; we must act to make certain that it is not repeated. Understanding how humans can reach a point where dehumanizing a group of people because of their race, religion or culture is an imperative component of education. In turn, education leads to empathy which is expressed as compassion.

Contrary to the espoused beliefs of some of our leaders, we must not isolate ourselves from the suffering of others. We are part of a larger community. As the greatest nation on earth, we must lead by example. Indeed, “We are our brother’s keepers.” Part of that responsibility is to teach the next generation how the past influences the present. Otherwise, we are doomed to repeat the mistakes that have allowed the world to become such a nightmare for so many innocent victims.

As a physician, I know that hatred is a disease; left unchecked, it can infect a nation. This is the stark lesson of history. I am not suggesting that our country can police the world. What we can do is everything humanly possible to halt the spread of hatred and aid those who suffer under the assault of murders. As leaders, what you do matters. You have the opportunity make a difference for today's and tomorrows young people. By educating students about the past, we can develop a responsible citizenship able to address the challenges of the present. Therefore, I offer my unconditional support of the inclusion of holocaust education in social studies curriculums in every school, for every student.

Thank you for your considering my testimony. I can be contacted for any further comments at 860-8752444 or e-mail [saud.anwar@gmail.com](mailto:saud.anwar@gmail.com).

Thank you,

M. Saud Anwar