

## **House Bill 161 - Ways and Means Committee - Favorable**

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee;

Please give House Bill 161, regarding a comprehensive health education framework, a favorable report.

One Pasadena: Building a Safe and Inclusive Community is an anti-bigotry group that works to change the culture of hate in Pasadena, Maryland. We really appreciate that the sponsor of HB 161 has made Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation a requirement for health education, rather than allow parents to opt out of it. In Pasadena, a trans teacher and a student in the GSA were repeatedly harassed, bullied, and threatened by parents and youth. Some students were even assaulted just for being Queer. Obviously, the bullies in the school are learning their behavior from their parents. However, there is hope that those teens will stop the cycle of bigotry if they're better educated.

We urge you to support House Bill 161, keeping the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation topic intact and required. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
The One Pasadena Steering Committee  
Pasadena, MD