

Written Testimony for **HB 86**: Institutions of Higher Education and Elementary and Secondary Schools - Title VI Coordinators - Please **VOTE NO** on this bill.

Dear Appropriations Committee:

This bill's synopsis reads "...Requiring the governing board of each institution of higher education in the State and local school systems to designate a Title VI Coordinator to ensure compliance with Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964; and authorizing a person alleging discrimination under certain provisions of law to file a complaint with a Title VI Coordinator of a local school system, as applicable..."

Title VI protects individuals from being discriminated against based on race, color, or national origin by entities receiving federal financial assistance from USDA (e.g., state and local agencies, educational institutions, non-profits, and other non-federal entities). Title VI protections also cover individuals who are or are perceived to be Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Buddhist, or of another religious group.

I do not understand why this bill needs to become a law. All Schools in Maryland have policies, rules and/or regulations against discrimination of all kinds. They have to because of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 mentioned above. And with those policies, rules and/or regulations comes personnel that are specifically trained to handle any complaints of discrimination, and there are procedures in place as well.

Therefore, there are no additional laws needed, no coordinators needed and no special program for this. This will simply cause schools to have to cut more programs in order to make space for this and in order to be able to afford to hire and pay for these coordinators. Schools systems in Maryland are already saying that they do not have enough funding for what they NEED to do to provide a quality education to our children. This will just cause this problem of school funding to become even worse. Schools will have to cut after-school activities like sports, band, theater, chorus, etc., because we are attempting to add more unnecessary programs and personnel to their budgets that are already currently being handled within the scope of the current programs and personnel.

Please **VOTE NO** on this bill to show Marylanders that you are aware of the problem of school funding and that you do not want to add to this problem!!

Thank you.

Trudy Tibbals

A Very Concerned Mother, Voter and Maryland resident