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Written Testimony

**House Bill 86 - Institutions of Higher Education and Elementary
and Secondary Schools - Title VI Coordinators
Appropriations Committee – February 4, 2025
Support**

Background: House Bill 86 would require 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 authorize 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.

Written Comments: It's impossible to turn a blind eye to the increased hateful rhetoric that is plaguing our school systems across the State. Just last week there was an incident at Towson High School where a swastika was drawn in one of the bathrooms. These incidents are not insular to the K-12 education system, in fact, they increase tremendously in our institutions of higher education, especially since the horrific massacre of October 7th. Between encampments and protests, it's difficult for some students to feel welcome and safe.

It is important that all our college students feel like they belong on campus. By requiring that each school designate a Title VI Coordinator, we are ensuring that there is a resource available to students who feel they are being discriminated against, and proper avenues for incidents to be reported. By ensuring there is access to these resources, we are further protecting our students and allowing them to focus on the reason that they are on campus in the first place – to receive an excellent education.

For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Councils asks for a favorable report on HB86.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.

BALTIMORE JEWISH COUNCIL

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