

Judiciary Committee
House Bill 1452
FAVORABLE

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Judiciary Committee;

Please give House Bill 1452 a Favorable report.

I live in Pasadena, which has a culture of bigotry. In 2018, Pasadena was number one in hate/bias incidents in the state. Under this bill's definition of hate/bias incidents, Pasadena would again be at the top.

The amount of racism and Queerphobia throughout Pasadena is unbelievable. There are signs, flags, vehicle stickers, and more online posts expressing bigotry than you might imagine. A transgender teacher and Queer student were harassed online to such an extent that law enforcement got involved to protect their school, one local was found guilty of a hate crime, the courts otherwise became involved, and the teacher took extra measures to protect her home and family. Another Queer person felt so threatened that they backed out of a job. Black people in Pasadena are called the n-word by people passing by in their vehicles. Residents have posted online that they'd shoot Black Lives Matter protesters and undocumented immigrants (not the term they used) if they came too close to their homes. And Queer, Black, and Brown students encounter bigotry every day in our schools. My husband and I have repeatedly been called names, accused of supporting grooming/ pedophilia, and threatened because we're anti-bigotry activists. Someone even put up a huge sign along our busiest road during rush hour with our names on it (photo included below.) Our county councilperson and representatives in the General Assembly, do nothing about it other than pose in photos with some of the perpetrators.

I think it's important to accurately track hate/bias incidents throughout Maryland so that we can more clearly see the problems that we need to address. Please support House Bill 1452. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Debi Jasen
Pasadena, MD

