



Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Testimony: SB 0316 Institutions of Higher Education and Elementary and Secondary Schools - Title VI Coordinators

Organization: Jewish Community Relations Council of Howard County, MD

Submitting: Laura Salganik, Chair

Position: FAVORABLE

Hearing Date: February 18, 2026

The Jewish Community Relations Council is submitting this testimony in favor of: SB 0316, Institutions of Higher Education and Elementary and Secondary Schools - Title VI Coordinators. The Bill requires 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.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 provides an excellent framework for identification of discriminatory acts and acts of hatred in the education systems. In 2024, a group of parents from Howard County filed a complaint about the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) with the Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR). HCPSS and OCR eventually reached an agreement, which provided detailed provisions for analysis and actions to address the identified issues.

HCPSS has taken steps to remedy the situation, including adding religion to its bullying reporting form, providing antisemitism education for administrators, and conducting a school climate survey. However, responsibility for implementing the agreement is fragmented across departments, which makes it challenging to track, both for HCPSS and for us. Particularly with the weakened state of OCR and the number of challenges facing the schools, it doesn't seem that there is anyone accountable for implementing the agreement. This Bill would create the needed accountability for effective implementation.

We, therefore, respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0316.