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March 30, 2026

**BILL: HB 14 – County Boards of Education - Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation - Information Collection and Reporting Requirements**

COMMITTEE: EEE

POSITION: Support with Amendment

**RE: Statement of Support with Amendment**

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment

I am Alita-Geri Carter, the owner of Qualequity Access, LLC., a consultancy grounded in data-driven transformation that advocates for quality, equity, access, and accessibility in healthcare and education. I am the mother of two children with disabilities, a former practicing nursing practitioner, special education parent advocate, and public health servant.

I am writing to express my strong support for **House Bill 14** with public reporting requirements to support meaningful transparency and accountability. This legislation addresses a critical need for data-driven transparency regarding the safety and well-being of students in Maryland's public schools.

As someone deeply invested in the rights and safety of students, highlighting those who are most vulnerable, those with disabilities. Data tells a story and this type of data will support awareness of areas of improvement concerning inclusion and belonging. HB 14 strengthens our state's response to these incidents in vital ways if written with transparency and accountability in mind:

1. **Mandatory Identification of Bias:** By requiring that report forms specifically indicate whether an incident was motivated by actual or perceived personal characteristics, such as physical or mental disability, the bill ensures that we are tracking targeted harassment rather than just general conflict. It also ensures that targeted action plans can be created to address the identified bias.
2. **Public Accountability:** The requirement is vital and as originally written was for county boards to post disaggregated data on their websites ensures that parents, advocates, and lawmakers can see exactly which groups of students are being targeted. This public reporting is essential for holding local school systems accountable for their school climates.
3. **Community Participation for Improvement:** When data is made publicly available, members of the community can access it and support transformation efforts. As an advocate and community member, I often contribute to strategic planning for quality improvement on a voluntary basis. By not requiring this data to be publicly available, the legislation creates an opportunity for gatekeeping. I personally have spent nearly two years working with the Office of the Attorney General due to inappropriate and illegal refusals involved with MPIAs from school districts.



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This bill does not just collect more data; it collects the *right* data to allow for targeted interventions and systemic improvements. It is an essential step toward ensuring every child, regardless of their personal characteristics, can learn in an environment free from intimidation.

**I respectfully urge a Favorable report with amendment as discussed on HB 14.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Alita-Geri Carter, MSN, DNP-C, RN, CPNP-PC, BCPA, PMP

Resident, Howard County, MD