



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND  
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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**HB14: County Boards of Education - Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation - Information Collection and Reporting Requirements**

**Education, Energy, and Environment – April 1, 2026  
SUPPORT**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2026 legislative session. WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials. I am a member of the WDC's Next Generation and a student in Montgomery County Public Schools.

WDC urges the passage of HB14. This bill will improve the ability of school administrations to understand and address bullying and harassment by requiring more detailed data collection on the personal characteristics targeted during these incidents.

As a junior at Walt Whitman High School, I have seen firsthand how hate and bias can affect a school community. In recent years, our school has experienced a large increase in incidents of anti-religious vandalism and hate speech, with the most recent incident occurring only a few months ago in January 2026. These incidents targeted the identities of my classmates, creating a climate of fear and exclusion and making students feel unsafe in what is supposed to be a learning environment. When students feel targeted for things they cannot change, it becomes increasingly difficult to focus on their education and participate in school communities.

While our school administration responds to these specific events, the current reporting system often fails to capture the details of identity-driven harassment that can occur in a school environment. By grouping different races, religions, and sexual orientations into broad categories, the data fails to show the specific reasons why certain students are being targeted. This lack of data makes it difficult for administrations to implement the necessary measures to protect marginalized groups and address the root causes of bias.

HB14 is essential because it ensures the data is more detailed, allowing it to provide the information needed to hold our school systems accountable. This allows administrators to implement effective strategies to foster a truly safe and inclusive environment for every student.

**We ask for your support for HB14 and strongly urge a favorable Committee report.**

Camille  
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WDC NextGen

Cynthia Rubenstein  
WDC President

Kate Stein  
WDC Advocacy Chair