



**Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 14 with Amendments -
County Boards of Education – Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation –
Information Collection and Reporting
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
April 1, 2026**

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish social service agencies, synagogues, and schools throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on mutual respect, justice, equity and safety. We work throughout the region to advocate for our nonprofits that serve the most vulnerable on a non-sectarian basis and to campaign for policy interests on behalf of the Jewish community and all Marylanders.

The JCRC also runs a robust education division which focuses on combatting school-based antisemitism and promoting safe, hate-free, learning environments for all students. House Bill 14 is critically important to us as it mandates that county boards post data on their websites about incidents of bullying, harassment, or intimidation that are motivated by race, religion, or national origin.

We support HB 14 with amendments to ensure its strength, effectiveness and purpose. Specifically, we request that language be removed that significantly reduces the impact of the legislation including “substantial increase” and “disproportionate incident” (see page 4, lines 24-48). These are not legally defined terms which give county boards latitude **not** to collect this data. We need to ensure that school boards will follow through on the bill’s intent to report incidents of bias motivated bullying.

Hate-motivated incidents in K-12 schools are a serious problem with school-based antisemitism skyrocketing since October 7th. The absence of publicly available data breaking down which incidents are most prevalent and which communities are most targeted hinders efforts to keep students safe. The JCRC recently held a town hall with the Montgomery County Public School Superintendent, Dr. Thomas Taylor. He noted that a lack of credible data and chronic underreporting inhibits schools’ abilities to successfully address antisemitism and all forms of hatred.

Passage of this bill will help school systems implement strategies that more effectively target these disturbing hateful incidents. Every child deserves the fundamental right to an education free from harassment, bullying and intimidation. For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report with amendments on House Bill 14.

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