



## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

### FAVORABLE

### **SB 316- Institutions of Higher Education and Elementary and Secondary Schools - Title VI Coordinators**

Education, Energy, and the Environment  
February 18, 2026

The Maryland Legislative Jewish Caucus (MLJC), a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates, **strongly supports SB316 as a 2026 caucus priority**. This legislation requires institutions of higher education and local school systems in the State of Maryland to designate a Title VI coordinator to ensure compliance with federal anti-discrimination laws.

Title IX of the Civil Rights Act requires all federal funding recipients to designate one person to enforce gender-based discrimination laws; however, there is no equivalent requirement for Title VI—the critical provision that protects against racial, ethnic, and some religious discrimination. By requiring a dedicated Title VI Coordinator, this legislation provides essential tools for creating and maintaining safe and inclusive learning environments.

By taking proactive and reactive steps, the coordinators established by this legislation will help educational institutions reduce discrimination and limit Title VI violations. As SB 316 requires, the coordinators will increase accountability, reporting, and documentation of Title VI violations and conduct training programs to proactively educate staff and students about their rights and responsibilities under civil rights laws. This legislation's comprehensive, dual-pronged approach will help make schools and college campuses welcoming, safe, and inclusive environments for all students and staff.

MLJC, which is committed to combating hate crimes and bias-related incidents, recognizes the important role SB 316 plays in ensuring discrimination has no place at our places of learning. Given the rise of antisemitism and bias-related incidents at schools and universities, this legislation is necessary to strengthen protections against religious and ethnic discrimination, ensure violators are held accountable for their actions, and prevent discriminatory incidents through education.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report.