

Education, Energy, and the Environment
House Bill 14
Favorable with Amendment

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee;

We, the Steering Committee of One Pasadena: Building a Safe and Inclusive Community, request a favorable report with an amendment for House Bill 14.

Pasadena schools, especially in the Chesapeake cluster, have a history of bullying, harassment, and intimidation incidents based on personal characteristics. We have especially seen this trend on the basis of students being LGBTQ+, Black, Brown, and Jewish. Some parents and community members even excuse and encourage this by insisting that it doesn't count as bullying BECAUSE of the specific personal characteristics that their children are attacking students on. We have heard from people who have left or are thinking of leaving Pasadena, and parents who have removed their children from the schools because of this issue and their fears for their children.

The amendment we would like to see is to get rid of "substantial increase." Not only is "substantial" not defined, but we would like to see ANY trends. Seeing the problem is the first step towards fixing the problem. We urge a favorable vote with amendment. Thank you.

Sincerely,
The One Pasadena Steering Committee
Pasadena, MD