



WRITTEN TESTIMONY

FAVORABLE

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

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

April 1 , 2026

The Maryland Legislative Jewish Caucus (MLJC), a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates, **strongly supports** HB 14 as a 2026 caucus priority, requiring public schools to report bullying by personal characteristic and ensuring the collection of accurate data on antisemitic bullying. **This legislation would not only help protect Jewish students, but would also gather data for all, whether it be based on religion, sex, race, national origin, or other protected categories.**

HB 14 aligns strongly with MLJC's mission of protecting Maryland's Jewish families and students across the state. Hate-motivated incidents and targeted acts of violence continue to rise, both in our neighborhoods and in our schools. This bill will help counties gather data on the levels of antisemitic bullying to spread awareness and foster change in our communities, as no one should feel unsafe and attending school shouldn't be an act of courage.

Transparency in making this data publicly available is the first step in combatting harmful discriminatory treatment, as we cannot properly address issues without necessary measurements and tracking. When parents and community leaders have access to this information from county websites, they will be better equipped to advocate for targeted interventions that foster safer and more inclusive school environments.

We respectfully urge a favorable report on HB 14.