

Judiciary Committee  
House Bill 513  
Favorable Report

Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Judiciary Committee;

One Pasadena: Building a Safe and Inclusive Community is an anti-bigotry group in northeast Anne Arundel County. We, the Steering Committee of One Pasadena, urge a favorable report for House Bill 513.

In 2018, Pasadena had the highest number of hate bias reports among the counties who reported in Maryland. One Pasadena was created in response to that information and the news reports of hate bias incidents in Pasadena schools. If we hadn't been aware of the number of hate bias incidents in Pasadena in 2018, we wouldn't have understood the extent of the problem in our community. We wouldn't have sought to address the culture of bigotry in Pasadena, or partnered with other anti-bigotry organizations in the county. We wouldn't have heard from people who were being treated with hatred and wanted support. We wouldn't have learned that many were relieved to learn that not all Pasadena residents were prejudiced, and who were able to build friendships based on shared values. We know the power of information, and how having that information can lead to making a place safer and more welcoming.

Please give House Bill 513 a favorable report. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
The One Pasadena Steering Committee  
Pasadena, MD