

## Testimony Against HB0014

Honorable Delegates

Please enter an unfavorable report on HB0014

I oppose

Altering the contents of a certain bullying, harassment, or intimidation form to require, if the incident is believed to have been motivated in whole or in substantial part by an actual or perceived personal characteristic including race, national origin, **marital status**, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, ancestry, physical attributes, socioeconomic status, familial status, or physical or mental ability or disability, the identification of those personal characteristics, if known.

I believe bullying is usually the result of feeling inferior by the perpetrator and that tormenting victims makes them feel superior. Victims are generally chosen moiré often because they are perceived to be weaker than the bully regardless of their physical characteristics.

This bill will just add to the non-educational workload of the school staff. In my experience, the bullies were equal opportunity perpetrators. Generally they were older and larger than we were. It did not matter if we were white, black, Hispanic or Asian. Often, those who were socially awkward, and/or were considered nerds or geeks were picked on regardless of race. Some of us would fit several of the characteristics to be recorded.

Once collected, what will be done with the data? Will staff be tasked to cross-reference the characteristics of the bully to the characteristics of the victims? Then, what will be done with the results of the analysis?

I believe the school system staff has more important things to do than to guess which characteristics of the victims possibly motivated the attacks. Gathering this data and posting it to a website will tend to further divide the students and parents in our current culture of identity politics. Acquiring this data will just be a waste of time and effort and possibly make things worse. Please enter an unfavorable report on HB0014.

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