



HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

MARCH 4, 2026

HOUSE BILL 1032

**PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS AND PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS - STUDENT
PRIVACY POLICY REQUIREMENTS AND DISCRIMINATION REPORTING**

OPPOSE

Agudath Israel of Maryland, the Mid-Atlantic regional office of Agudath Israel of America, a renowned national Jewish advocacy organization with chapters across the country, speaks on behalf of the Orthodox Jewish communities across Maryland and on the behalf of the many Jewish schools and students within our state. We stand today in opposition to House Bill 1032.

HB 1032 would require nonpublic prekindergarten programs and schools to report alleged instances of discrimination to the Department of Education. It is concerning to note that this bill ignores the extensive, good-faith discussion and advocacy in 2022, with concern to [HB 850/CH 739](#) of that year's session. As a result of those discussions, the bill that passed into law ensured that discrimination would rightfully be prevented while protecting the independence of nonpublic schools. Our schools have strict policies and procedures in place to ensure that the rights of all students are protected, as required by law. It is deeply disappointing that the previous agreement is now being revisited.

This bill's requirement that these institutions report all incidents of "alleged discrimination" would require them to report not merely cases of actual discrimination, but all allegations, and not merely cases pertaining to students, but also allegations involving "prospective students" or the parents or guardians of "prospective students," and would include occurrences beyond school, such as school transportation and extracurricular activities. (No provision distinguishes between allegations that are retracted or that are discovered to be false or based on misunderstandings.)

This bill provides no room for religious schools and single-sex schools, failing to recognize that under long-standing Maryland law such schools are most definitely permitted to exclude students of different religions or of different sex, respectively.

We submit that the policies signed into law in 2022 should be respected and preserved as the standard, and we respectfully urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 1032.