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**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

**HB14: County Boards of Education - Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation -  
Information Collection and Reporting Requirements  
House Ways & Means Committee | January 29, 2026  
SUPPORT**

**Background:** House Bill 14 would alter the contents of the classroom bullying, harassment, or intimidation reporting form to require a reporting mechanism 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 bill also mandates transparency, by requiring county boards of education to annually post disaggregated data on reported incidents and motivations on their websites.

**Written Comments:** The Baltimore Jewish Council (BJC) represents the Associated Jewish Federation of Baltimore and all its agencies, as well as the organized Jewish Community of Baltimore.

Every child deserves to learn without fear of harassment or intimidation. This bill improves how schools collect and understand data on bullying so that educators and policymakers can identify patterns, target interventions, and cultivate safer, more inclusive learning environments.

Every school is different. We cannot assume that the biases prominent in one school system are the same in another. Enhanced reporting of incidents motivated by personal characteristics (including religion, race, and disability) aligns with longstanding civil rights principles. Knowing the scope and nature of bias-motivated harassment is essential to effectively countering it and supporting affected students. By requiring this reporting, schools can handle their respective prominent biases on a case-by-case basis.

HB14 reflects Maryland's commitment to affirming the dignity and safety of all students. It equips educators, families, and policymakers with better tools to identify and address harmful behavior, especially when rooted in bias or prejudice.

**For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report on HB14.**

*The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of the Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.*