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January 27, 2026

BILL: HB 14 – County Boards of Education - Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation - Information Collection and Reporting Requirements

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
POSITION: Support

RE: Statement of Support

Dear Chairwoman Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, Delegate Foley and Honorable Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am Alita-Geri Carter, the owner of Qualequity Access, LLC., a consultancy grounded in data-driven transformation that advocates for quality, equity, access, and accessibility in healthcare and education. I am the mother of two children with disabilities, a former practicing nursing practitioner, special education parent advocate, and public health servant.

I am writing to express my strong support for **House Bill 14**. This legislation addresses a critical need for data-driven transparency regarding the safety and well-being of students in Maryland's public schools.

As someone deeply invested in the rights and safety of students, highlighting those who are most vulnerable, those with disabilities. Data tells a story and this type of data will support awareness of areas of improvement concerning inclusion and belonging. HB 14 strengthens our state's response to these incidents in two vital ways:

1. **Mandatory Identification of Bias:** By requiring that report forms specifically indicate whether an incident was motivated by actual or perceived personal characteristics, such as physical or mental disability, the bill ensures that we are tracking targeted harassment rather than just general conflict.
2. **Public Accountability:** The requirement for county boards to post disaggregated data on their websites ensures that parents, advocates, and lawmakers can see exactly which groups of students are being targeted. This public reporting is essential for holding local school systems accountable for their school climates.

This bill does not just collect more data; it collects the *right* data to allow for targeted interventions and systemic improvements. It is an essential step toward ensuring every child, regardless of their personal characteristics, can learn in an environment free from intimidation.

I respectfully urge a Favorable report on HB 14.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alita-Geri Carter, MSN, DNP-C, CPNP-PC, BCPA
Resident, Howard County, MD