

[HB0014](#): County Boards of Education - Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation - Information Collection and Reporting Requirements: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Ways & Means Committee Chair and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit my **strong opposition to HB 0014 — County Boards of Education: Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation — Information Collection and Reporting Requirements.**

While the underlying issue of bullying and student safety is unquestionably important, **HB 0014** would impose **overly broad and burdensome reporting requirements** on county boards of education and school systems without clear evidence that such mandates would meaningfully improve student outcomes. Mandating additional collection and publication of information **risks** diverting limited time and resources away from direct support for students, educators and administration who are on the front lines addressing behavior concerns.

There are several reasons this bill is concerning:

1. **Administrative Burden:** Requiring county boards to collect, compile, and report extensive data places substantial administrative demands on school systems. At a time when schools are stretched thin — with staffing shortages, learning recovery needs, and behavioral health challenges — adding new reporting mandates could pull attention and resources away from direct student support.
2. **Unclear Benefit vs. Cost:** The bill does not clearly demonstrate how the expanded data collection will lead to better prevention or intervention strategies. Schools already track incidents of bullying and harassment through existing systems. Layering new reporting requirements may create duplicate efforts without adding meaningful insight for educators, parents, or policymakers.
3. **Privacy Concerns:** Increasing the scope of reported information raises potential privacy implications for students and families. Sensitive information about individual students could be inadvertently exposed or misinterpreted, even if well-intentioned. Ensuring student safety should never come at the cost of compromising privacy or stigmatizing students.
4. **Focus on Compliance Over Solutions:** Heavy reporting requirements can shift the focus toward checking boxes rather than identifying and implementing effective, research-based interventions that address the root causes of bullying and harassment. Schools should be empowered to develop responsive student support systems rather than weighed down by rigid reporting structures.

Rather than imposing new statewide mandates, policymakers should explore **targeted support, evidence-based training, and flexible tools** that help educators prevent and address bullying in ways that reflect the unique needs of individual communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to **vote against HB 0014**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Trudy Tibbals