



Committee: Ways and Means

Testimony: HB14: County Boards of Education - Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation - Information Collection and Reporting Requirements Sponsored by Linda Foley

Organization: Jewish Community Relations Council of Howard County, MD

Submitting: Laura Salganik, Chair

Position: FAVORABLE

Hearing Date: January 29, 2026

Dear Chairwoman Wilkins, Vice Chairwoman Feldmark, and Committee Members:

The Jewish Community Relations Council is submitting this testimony in favor of: HB14: County Boards of Education - Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation - Information Collection and Reporting Requirements

In an effort to reduce this type of behavior, HB14, sponsored by Delegate Linda Foley would alter the contents of a school bullying, harassment, and intimidation form to require the identification of certain specific motivators behind these intolerable incidents. Alarming, FBI data reveals that hate crimes in schools have more than doubled over the past five years; the most frequent victims are Black, LGBTQ+ and Jewish students. It is noteworthy, however, that antisemitism or hate crimes against Jewish students, are growing in schools at an alarming rate. It is critical that this growth be stopped as quickly and efficiently as possible. To stem the growth, not only for Jews but for all affected groups, institutions must have the objective capability to identify where and when it occurs in order to take appropriate remedial action.

This Bill, when enacted, will provide significantly more in-depth insight into the demographic motivation for these hateful activities and will provide a more data-based roadmap for prevention and intervention. We, therefore, respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB14.