

HB0014_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

01/29/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#/0014- POSITION: FAVORABLE

County Boards of Education - Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation - Information Collection and Reporting Requirements

TO: Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and members of the Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0014, **County Boards of Education - Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation - Information Collection and Reporting Requirements**

To develop targeted strategies to deal with bullying, harassment or intimidation in our schools it requires we identify who is most affected by these actions. The collection of this data is not currently occurring; this bill is a remedy to that lack of information.

This bill serves to alter the contents of a certain bullying, harassment, or intimidation form to require, 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 identification of those personal characteristics, if known; etc.

The Peoples Law Library of Maryland is an excellent resource on these problems.¹ The Kennedy-Kreiger Institute also has a study on this problem.² The National Bullying Prevention Center has some horrifying statistics about the issue.³

This bill will permit Maryland to tackle the problem with clear information on the dimensions of this misconduct occurring in our schools.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0014.

¹ <https://www.peoples-law.org/bullying>

² <https://www.kennedykrieger.org/sites/default/files/library/documents/patient-care/centers-and-programs/center-for-autism-and-related-disorders/bullying-harassment-intimidation-students-maryland-public-schools.pdf>

³ <https://www.pacer.org/bullying/info/stats/>