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**House Bill 14 – County Boards of Education - Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation -
Information Collection and Reporting Requirements
Ways and Means Committee
January 29, 2026**

FAVORABLE

The Baltimore Teachers Union represents over 9,000 employees of Baltimore City Public Schools, including teachers, paraprofessionals, school secretaries, counselors, librarians, clinicians, transportation aides, and school support staff. Our members are on the frontlines of public education everyday, and strive to ensure a safe learning environment for the students we serve. As we educate, support and develop Baltimore City’s young people, we encounter some of the most challenging work environments in the state, and student bullying is a major concern of our members that affects educator effectiveness, retention, and student success, as our working conditions are students’ learning conditions. The Baltimore Teachers Union is writing in strong **support** of HB 14 and **we request that the committee issue a favorable report.**

Educators are increasingly concerned about the rise in bullying, harassment, and intimidation in our schools, especially incidents motivated by race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, immigration status, and other personal identifying characteristics. Yet without consistent, comprehensive data collection and public reporting, these incidents remain undercounted, misunderstood, and too often unaddressed. This bill takes a critical step toward accountability by requiring schools and districts to collect and report meaningful data on bullying and bias incidents, allowing policymakers, educators, and communities to identify trends, target interventions, and ensure that students who are most vulnerable are protected.

A safe learning environment is not optional—it is foundational to student success. Students cannot learn when they feel threatened, targeted, or invisible. Schools have a responsibility to provide not only academic instruction, but also environments where every child is respected, affirmed, and able to participate fully in school life. Transparency around bullying and bias incidents strengthens trust between families and schools, supports early intervention, and helps ensure that resources are directed where they are most needed.

The Baltimore Teachers Union believes that public education must serve all students, without exception. Strong reporting requirements are not about punishment—they are about prevention, protection, and progress. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on this bill and thank you for your leadership in advancing student safety and equity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.