



HB240 HATE CRIMES - THREATS AND PENALTIES

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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County supports **HB240 Hate Crimes - Threats and Penalties**. This bill 1) prohibits a person from threatening to commit a violation of specified hate crimes; 2) alters penalties for violations of the State's prohibition on committing hate crimes; and 3) authorizes a court to require a person convicted of committing a hate crime, as a condition of supervised release, to attend educational classes and perform community service related to the person or group that was the subject of the person's hate crime.

Racist and bigoted behavior and actions are not tolerated at AACPS. As such, we continue to work with our staff and the community to be part of the solution to acts of hate in the county and in our schools. There is a lot of work, however, for everyone to do when it comes to eradicating bigotry and hate. We all have roles to play, and as is the case when it comes to the education of our children, in this effort all must mean all. Accordingly, we believe that this legislation is an important step in the right direction to help strengthen Maryland's hate crimes law.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB240.