

Thank you so much Rep. Webb, Pratt, Kornheiser, Giambatista and Gonzalez for meeting with all of us this morning.

I unfortunately am unable to come to the committee meeting at 2PM today on bill H3 but wanted to give my input on the proposed language changes. As a mother of two school age children who are both American and Israeli citizens with Arab names and who at the preschool/kindergarten level have already seen the hints of discrimination along with my daughter not wanting to "be Palestinian in my class," this bill means a lot to me and their education.

I will keep this short but wanted to weigh in as a VESEC coalition member about my preference in language changes. I will simply paste the ones I wish to see included in the bill below:

OPTIONS FOR FINDINGS:

(5) The harassment of marginalized groups, and the lack of understanding of people in power about the magnitude of the systemic impacts of harassment and bias, damages the whole community.

OPTIONS FOR ETHNIC GROUPS DEFINITIONS

AP: "Ethnic groups" means nondominant racial and ethnic groups in the United States, including people who are Abenaki, people from other indigenous groups, and people of African, Asian, Pacific Island, Chicanx, Latinx, or Middle Eastern descent, *as well as minorities historically subject to persecution and genocide.*

OPTIONS FOR DATA COLLECTION

T the extent consistent with State and federal privacy laws and regulations, data on student performance and hazing, harassment, or bullying incidents shall be disaggregated by student groups, including ethnic 10 and racial groups, gender, **sexual orientation, gender identity**, poverty status, disability status, and English language learner status.

ADD: religion (I agree to adding religion.)

I've chosen these sets of proposed changes because I feel that they keep within the spirit of the bill to be as inclusive as possible and set us on a path forward to make our education system the best we can for our children and future generations.

Thank you,

Melissa Battah