
**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1235
Maryland Center for School Safety—
School Employee Injury Reporting and Study**

**Ways and Means Committee
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1:00 PM**

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The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 1235, legislation that would require the Maryland Center on School Safety to conduct a study on injuries to educators and school staff that occur in local school districts and develop recommendations for improving school safety based on the data collected and assessed.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Educators and school staff go the extra mile to protect and support students, schools, and communities. Far too often, they find themselves on the receiving end of harm—sometimes significant, requiring medical attention and/or medical leave—as a result of either attempting to protect students from each other or at the hands of a student attacking them directly. The growing number and severity of incidences call for an immediate and thoughtful response—one that seeks to identify the true nature of the problem and formulate long-term solutions aimed at ensuring students, educators, and school staff are safe.

By collecting data on injuries to educators and support staff, the Maryland Center for School Safety can properly analyze the problem across our districts and our state; identify patterns that may exist; and determine recommended actions that should be taken to mitigate the problem.

Schools can and should be safe learning and working environments. While much attention is paid toward ensuring that our students are safe, we must also turn our attention toward the educators and school staff who work with them in our schools every day. Therefore, **MSEA requests a favorable report on House Bill 1235.**