



A Union of Professionals
AFT-Maryland

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**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland House Judiciary Committee
SB 298 - Criminal Law - Threat Against Public Health Official or Hospital Staff Member
February 8, 2022**

SUPPORT

Chair Smith and members of the committee, on behalf of the American Federation of Teachers - Maryland (AFT-MD), which represents more than 20,000 educators, government, and healthcare workers across Maryland, I urge you to support SB 298 - Criminal Law - Threat Against Public Health Official or Hospital Staff Member

The purpose of the bill is to prohibit a person from making or sending a threat to a public health official or hospital staff member. Our members in state hospitals work with court involved patients and endure a higher level of abuse already. Over the last few years these occurrences of threats and abuse have increased. Most of the time nothing is done because the patient is already in custody; however, in some cases the police must be notified because of specific threats to personnel.

AFT-MD supports legislation that will give another level of protection to our members when individuals are threatened. We ask this committee for a favorable report on SB 298. Thank you.

Kenya Campbell
President