



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Testimony of Senator Jill P. Carter
**In Favor of SB1032 – Public Schools-Student Use of Force-
Authorization**
Before the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
On February 28th 2024

Mr. Chairman, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill 1032 aims to empower students to take reasonable action to prevent violence on school premises or during school-sponsored trips. This bill is a crucial step towards ensuring the safety and well-being of our students in Maryland.

I believe that Senate Bill 1032 addresses a critical need in our education system. All too often, we hear heartbreaking stories of students facing violence and feeling powerless to protect themselves or their peers. This bill seeks to change that by granting students the ability to take reasonable measures to prevent violence and protect themselves when faced with imminent danger.

By authorizing students to use reasonable force when necessary to defend themselves or escape an attack, Senate Bill 1032 empowers them to act decisively in dangerous situations. It is essential that our laws reflect a commitment to the safety and well-being of our students, and this bill achieves that goal.

The requirement for the principal or school administration to thoroughly investigate each student use of force incident is crucial for ensuring accountability and fairness. This provision will help ensure that incidents are properly reviewed and that students are not unfairly penalized for acting in self-defense.

The prohibition on schools from disciplining students under certain circumstances provides necessary protection for students who are simply seeking to protect themselves or others from harm. It is imperative that students feel supported by their schools when faced with threats to their safety.

In conclusion, Senate Bill 1032 represents a significant step forward in promoting a safe and secure learning environment for all students in Maryland. I urge the committee to carefully consider and support this vital piece of legislation.

Respectfully,

Jill P. Carter