



TESTIMONY FOR HB0416
Public Schools - Active Shooter Safety Drills or Trainings
Requirements

Bill Sponsors: Delegates Solomon and Atterbeary

Committee: Ways and Means

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0416 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

One requirement of HB0416 is for local school systems to provide parents with the annual schedule of active shooter safety drills. We support these drills to help people practice how to respond to a real active shooter event and improve students' chances of survival. However, active shooter drills can cause anxiety, stress, or trauma for some children, especially if they are not informed or prepared in advance.

Therefore, it is important that parents be informed of active shooter drills, thus allowing parents to care for their children's emotional needs both before and after. The notification can also allow parents to be engaged in the process, ensuring that the drills are carefully planned and implemented, with clear objectives, guidelines, and feedback mechanisms.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and recommends a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.