



Cecil County Chamber of Commerce
216 E. Pulaski Hwy, Suite 120
Elkton, Maryland 21921
April 1, 2024

Senate Bill 1158

Crime of Violence - Educational Facilities, Medical Facilities, and Places of Worship - Penalty
(Sacred Places Safety Act)

LEGISLATIVE POSITION: Request Favorable Report

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

On behalf of the Cecil County Chamber of Commerce and our four hundred and fifty member companies representing over fifteen thousand employees, we are writing to express our support of **SB 1158**, which, if enacted, would make it a felony if someone commits and is found guilty of a crime of violence in an educational facility, medical facility or place of worship.

We believe it is imperative that employees, students, patients and parishioners should not fear or be vulnerable to violent crime in educational and health care facilities or places of worship.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that in 2018 73% of all non-fatal workplace injuries and illnesses due to violence were suffered by health care workers. The Bureau also reports that health care workers are five times more likely to suffer a workplace violence injury than workers in private industry.

In Cecil County, ChristianaCare's Union Hospital reports that RNs at the hospital are experiencing physical assaults in the course of performing their work duties despite efforts undertaken by the hospital to keep their staff safe. Our dedicated health care workers deserve every step that can be taken to reduce the risk of violence in their workplace.

Allowing for the imposition of stiff penalties for acts of violence in such settings provides for consequences that we expect will help deter such acts.

For the reasons noted above, we respectfully **request a favorable report.**

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Members of Cecil County Chamber Government Relations Committee
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