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BILL NO.: **HB 547**

TITLE: **Crime of Violence – Educational Facilities, Medical Facilities,
and Places of Worship – Penalty (Sacred Places Safety Act)**

SPONSOR: **Delegate Alston**

COMMITTEE: **Judiciary**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **February 13, 2024**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 547 – Crime of Violence – Educational Facilities, Medical Facilities, and Places of Worship – Penalty (Sacred Places Safety Act). This legislation would make the act of a crime of violence a separate felony if the crime is committed on the property of an educational facility, medical facility, or a place of worship.

As the United States continues to be plagued by an epidemic of gun violence, it is crucial that both State and local government is taking steps to both hold perpetrators of gun violence accountable and protect our communities. The influx of mass casualty events targeting schools, houses of worship, and other community centers is unconscionable. HB 547 would grant prosecutors the ability to pursue additional penalties and longer prison sentences, bringing those responsible for these inhumane crimes to justice.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 547 from the House Judiciary Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.