



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

February 7, 2024

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary  
Chair, Ways and Means Committee  
Room 131 House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: House Bill 416 – Public Schools - Active Shooter Safety Drills or Trainings – Requirements – Letter of Support With Amendment**

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendment for House Bill (HB) 416 – Public Schools - Active Shooter Safety Drills or Trainings – Requirements.

HB 416 prompts the Maryland Center for School Safety to collaborate in the development of best practices for active shooter safety drills or trainings. We propose including language access and cultural competency in the development of these best practices.

Specifically, the Department suggests amending this bill to include the implementation of language access planning and cultural competency training guidelines where practicable. Language access plans help ensure that Limited English Proficient individuals have equal access to supports, services, and opportunities. Cultural competence training works to address the disparities that people of racially and culturally diverse backgrounds often experience by fostering intercultural communication skills responsive to cultural difference. A linguistically and culturally competent approach to developing programs and policies is essential to creating inclusive statewide protocols.

If you have any further questions, please contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs at [sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary