

HB0416_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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Richard Keith Kaplowitz
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TESTIMONY ON HB#/0416 - FAVORABLE
Public Schools - Active Shooter Safety Drills or Trainings - Requirements

TO: Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0416, Public Schools - Active Shooter Safety Drills or Trainings - Requirements

I have attended Frederick Community College as a Senior Adult student since turning 62 years old. In the process of earning my three degrees I have attended classes with many students ages 16-25. Every class is supposed to begin with a viewing of the safety and security videos. I have observed how these videos trigger some of my classmates. It creates psychological distress as they contemplate what might happen in an active shooter situation. This climate of fear is heightened by the placement of posters in all college buildings advising them to apply the steps in dealing with an active shooter.

This bill is an attempt to study how we communicate a safety message without elevating the fears of students. It also supports parental involvement when it mandates that parents be notified of an active shooter drill. At younger ages we can create a safer environment for the safety messages we expose our children to by letting parents know of the drill so they can prepare their child and help them talk it out so as not to be overcome by any fears the drill activates.

As a member of Moms Demand Action this bill is a priority for passage this year.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0416.