

Good afternoon, Chairman Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and members of the committee.

My name is Navian Scarlett, I live in Frederick, Maryland, in district 3. I am a gun violence prevention volunteer, and a college student. I am a gun violence survivor of a shooting at Frederick High School in February of 2015.

I am here in support of HB 416, the Active Shooter Drill Notification Bill, and I ask for a favorable report.

I wholeheartedly believe in this bill, because it will help students cope with the anxiety, and trauma shooting drills can induce. While the safety of students and staff is paramount, I do not believe that inducing anxiety, or even triggering gun violence survivors is an ideal approach. In my experience during the first active shooter drill at my high school, I had the same fear, and anxiety from the night of my school shooting experience. When there are other stimuli included such as the rattling of the door handle, I remember holding hands with my friends as tears of anguish rolled down my cheeks. As I looked around my classroom, students were crying from fear and anxiety, some having panic attacks, and others curled up on the floor, knees to their chest, rocking back

and forth as a result. For me, and my classmates there was no assistance to quell our distress.

This bill will inform students and parents in advance, prevent triggering simulation sounds during these drills, and offer services for students to recover from the mental strain of reliving their gun violence trauma. We do not need to compromise the mental health, and well being of students and staff to protect them.

This legislation is the most reasonable way to keep everyone safe, and prepared for what can no longer be considered the unexpected, but a matter of time. We must put gun violence survivors, and those traumatized first, to ensure that we are not the cause of plummeting mental health in the student community, but ensuring their safety on all fronts.

Thank you for your time.