

**Testimony in Support of
HB 416 - Public Schools -
Active Shooter Safety Drills or Trainings - Requirements**

TO: Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair and Members of the Ways and Means Committee.
FROM: Marianne DeBow
DATE: February 7, 2024

I am asking you to support **HB 416 - Public Schools - Active Shooter Safety Drills or Trainings - Requirements**.

My 6-year old grandson and his family experienced their first active shooter drill this year. For the last several years, he had attended a Montessori school which did not have active shooter drills.

My daughter is a therapist, but the first contact she had with the school about an impending active shooter drill was an email sent from the school to parents the morning of the drill. As you might imagine, my daughter was very upset to have not been forewarned so she could talk with her child about this new type of drill. She also wanted the "script" the school and teachers would use, so she would know the language being used to communicate to her child.

I was to pick my grandson up from school that day and so we made arrangements for his dad to pick him up in case he needed to discuss the drill. My grandson said nothing about the drill and it wasn't until days later that my daughter found out it did not occur that day. But, the active shooter drill was scheduled for another day.

My daughter was able to prepare her child for it, but it was still traumatic.

My grandson told her, "if one day I don't come home from school, it means I am dead".

Additionally, after the drill, it was the first time blood and dead people appeared in his drawings.

I think we forget how traumatic these active shooter drills are for youngsters.

Marianne DeBow

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