

Written testimony for **HB 1132/ SB 783**: Public Schools - Student Fights - School Investigation and Discipline - Please **VOTE YES** on this bill.

Dear Education, Energy and the Environment Committee:

This bill reads "... Requiring a principal or school administration to investigate each student fight or physical struggle; prohibiting a school employee from disciplining a student who, after an investigation, more likely than not used reasonable force necessary to protect the student or to escape the attack; and requiring a principal or school administration to expunge certain documentation from a student's disciplinary record under certain circumstances..."

It further states "... (A) A PRINCIPAL OR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION SHALL INVESTIGATE EACH STUDENT FIGHT OR PHYSICAL STRUGGLE. (B) (1) A SCHOOL EMPLOYEE MAY NOT DISCIPLINE A STUDENT WHO, AFTER THE INVESTIGATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, MORE LIKELY THAN NOT USED REASONABLE FORCE NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE STUDENT OR TO ESCAPE THE ATTACK. (2) IF A STUDENT WAS DISCIPLINED DURING THE COURSE OF THE INVESTIGATION BUT WAS LATER DETERMINED TO HAVE USED REASONABLE FORCE JUSTIFIED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE PRINCIPAL OR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION SHALL EXPUNGE ANY DOCUMENTATION OF THE DISCIPLINE FROM THE STUDENT'S DISCIPLINARY RECORD..."

This is great legislation!! This should be the way every single school handles every fight or physical struggle. And when this bill is passed, this is the way these situations will be required to be handled. Every fight or physical struggle SHOULD BE investigated! And if a student is using "reasonable force necessary to protect the student or to escape the attack", then that student should not be punished or disciplined in any way! And if it was later determined that a student who was disciplined did use "reasonable force" justified under the terms of this bill, then the principal or other school administration SHOULD expunge that student's disciplinary record of any documentation!!

This bill protects our students that are forced by another student or other person to defend themselves if they become involved in a fight or other physical struggle. We cannot simply punish or discipline every student involved in a fight or other physical struggle or altercation if there was a student that was simply defending their safety. We should only be disciplining students that initiated the fight or physical struggle.

Therefore, please **VOTE YES** on this bill.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals

A Very Concerned Mother of 3 and Maryland Resident