

Good afternoon. Chairman Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins and members of the committee. My name is Navian Scarlett.

I live in Frederick, MD in district 3. I am a college student.

I am here in support of HB 515, the Active Shooter Drill Notification bill, and I ask for a favorable report. I 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 students would start crying from fear and anxiety, even have panic attacks as a result. At the very least this would help inform students and parents in advance, and would prevent triggering simulation sounds like gunshots during these drills. We do not need to compromise the mental health and well being of students and staff to protect them. This would be the most ideal and 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 when taking this approach.

Thank you for your time.