

**Written Testimony from Timothy Nathan Ferrell, Baltimore City Public Schools
Teacher, District 44A**

Testimony in Support of House Bill 137
Civil Actions - Civil Immunity - Educator Intervention
House Judiciary Committee
January 25, 2025
2:30pm

Position: FAVORABLE

My name is Nathan Ferrell and I am writing in support of HB 137, legislation that would protect administrative, educational, and school support staff from civil liability for personal injury or property damage claims that may arise from their response to altercations in the attempt to keep children safe.

I am a K-12 certified Spanish teacher. I am blessed to have been able to teach for 8 years in Howard County Public Schools and for the last 8 in Baltimore City Public Schools.

HB 137 provides that:

A member of the administrative, educational, or support staff on any public, private, or parochial school acting in an official capacity is immune from civil liability for any personal injury or property damage resulting from an intervention in an altercation between students or other student disturbance if:

- (1) The member intervened in a reasonably prudent manner; and
- (2) The actions taken by the member in intervening do not constitute grossly negligent, willful, wanton, or intentionally tortious conduct.

As a veteran educator who has taught in various public school settings over the last two decades in service of Maryland public schools, I support any and all efforts to promote the safety of our learners, and reduce the risk of harm to them. Educators and school related personnel work tirelessly to improve school safety and outcomes for our students. Educators at all stages of their career both tenured and non-tenured, early career and veterans recognize that legal protections for educators are a much-needed improvement in a situation that requires complex solutions.

I, Timothy Nathan Ferrell, urge the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 137.

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