

**Written Testimony from Franca Muller Paz, Baltimore City Public Schools Teacher,
District 45**

Testimony in Support of House Bill 137

Civil Actions - Civil Immunity - Educator Intervention

House Judiciary Committee

January 25, 2025

2:30pm

Position: FAVORABLE

HB 137 Civil Immunity

My name is Franca Muller Paz 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 in my 13th year of teaching and in my 10th year as a Spanish teacher in Baltimore City Public Schools. I am also my school's elected Building Representative for Baltimore City Public Schools.

As a Building Representative, I often have to tell teachers a sad truth, that when they observe a fight, that they are not protected if they try to interfere. Therefore, they shouldn't get involved because they will have no legal protections.

I have NEVER listened to this advice, because I can't. When you see two students harming each other, it is instinct, you have to protect them both. I could not live with myself, if I stood by and watched young people violently hurt one another.

I have worked at an alternative school where fights took place daily & now, I am at a much more peaceful place where fights only take place on rare occasions. Every time I have intervened, putting my body on the line to protect OUR kids, I have needed to assume that legal risk, but I deserve to be protected. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB137.

Sincerely,

Franca Muller Paz
BCPSS Teacher and BTU Building Representative
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