

**Written Testimony Submitted to the  
Maryland House Judiciary Committee  
HB 137 – Civil Actions - Civil Immunity - Educator Intervention  
January 25, 2023**

**SUPPORT**

Chair Clippinger and members of the Judiciary Committee. On behalf of the more than 20,000 members of the American Federation of Teachers – Maryland (AFT-Maryland), including the Baltimore Teachers' Union (BTU), we ask for a favorable report on HB 137, Civil Actions - Civil Immunity - Educator Intervention.

This legislation would grant immunity to a teacher or educational support staff, from civil liability for any personal injury or property damage that results from an intervention in an altercation between students or other student disturbance if they act in a prudent manner, and if their actions do not constitute grossly negligent, willful, wanton, or intentionally wrongful conduct.

Under Maryland's current law, a teachers and support staff may be sued for damages if they intervene in an altercation. If an award is made against them, it is the school district that employs the worker that is financially responsible.

Teachers, administrators, and school personnel need to have a safe work environment to educate students. Disruptions and altercations need to be handled quickly and safely without fear of retribution when acting in a prudent manner. We ask for a favorable report on HB 137. Thank you.

