



AFT 340 AFL-CIO
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Testimony in Support of House Bill 137
Civil Actions - Civil Immunity - Educator Intervention
House Judiciary Committee
January 25, 2025
2:30pm

HB 137 Civil Immunity

The Baltimore Teachers Union supports 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.

The Baltimore Teachers Union represents 8,280 teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors, clinicians, librarians, secretaries, community school site specialists, bus transportation aides, and many more school-based and central office support staff. We are 4 out of 5 workers in Baltimore City Public Schools, serving 75,595 students and their families. Our national union, the American Federation of Teachers, has over 1.7 million members in the United States and its territories.

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.

We support any and all efforts to promote the safety of our learners, and reduce the risk of harm to them. We applaud Baltimore's teachers and school staff for working tirelessly to improve school safety and outcomes for our students, and we recognize that legal protections for educators are a much-needed improvement in a situation that requires complex solutions. **The BTU urges a favorable report on House Bill 137.**