



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

February 7, 2024

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: Senate Bill 432 – Public Schools - Active Shooter Safety Drills or Trainings – Requirements – Letter of Support With Amendment

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendment for Senate Bill (SB) 432 – Public Schools - Active Shooter Safety Drills or Trainings – Requirements.

SB432 prompts the Maryland Center for School Safety to collaborate in the development of best practices for active shooter safety drills or trainings. We propose including language access and cultural competency in the development of these best practices.

Specifically, the Department suggests amending this bill to include the implementation of language access planning and cultural competency training guidelines where practicable. Language access plans help ensure that Limited English Proficient individuals have equal access to supports, services, and opportunities. Cultural competence training works to address the disparities that people of racially and culturally diverse backgrounds often experience by fostering intercultural communication skills responsive to cultural difference. A linguistically and culturally competent approach to developing programs and policies is essential to creating inclusive statewide protocols.

If you have any further questions, please contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary