



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0627
EDUCATION - PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR ON SCHOOL GROUNDS AND PROPERTY -
APPLICATION**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Ruth

Committee: Ways and Means

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0627 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

A student who is physically attacked on school property or at a school activity needs to be able to protect themselves. AND the student should not be disciplined for doing so afterwards. This legislation is important as more assaults and weapons are reported at schools. An investigation by the school administration into the event, as required by this legislation, will prevent misuse of this law, and likely clear the student victim of wrongdoing.

Our coalition believes the statutes that pertain to self-defense should also apply to children and adolescents. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.