

HB0068

Favorable

In light of recent events such as the murder of a student inside a school in Harford County last year, the arrest of a known violent youth at a school in Montgomery County with a loaded gun on his possession and the arrest today of a youth at a Frederick County school for a violent and weapons offense over the weekend, our schools are unsafe.

Everyday students who are charged with violent offenses and are awaiting trials in our ridiculously slow court system are allowed to attend in person classes where they continue to harm, threaten and assault other students.

Our students deserve to go to school in safe environments free from violent predators. And yes, other students can be and often are the most violent offender our students will encounter. The risk to other students is too great. The ability exists in all of our counties to provide students with virtual education. If virtual education was good enough for a year and a half, then it is good enough now, for students who pose an obvious safety risk to other unsuspecting students who have no means to defend themselves.

Please make sure we keep our schools safe for our students by passing this bill and making sure those charges with serious violent crimes do not have easy access to more victims. The results of allowing students involved in violent crimes back into our schools merely because their cases are still moving forward has already resulted in the loss of life for innocent students. It's time to do the right thing.