

January 20, 2025

Written Testimony for **HB 137: Public Schools - Children Charged With a Crime of Violence - Prohibition on In-Person Attendance (School Safety Act of 2025)**:

Please **VOTE YES** on this bill.

Dear Ways & Means Committee:

This bill's synopsis reads as follows: "...Prohibiting a child from in-person attendance at a public school if the child has been charged with a crime of violence, until the child is found not delinquent or the charge is dismissed; and requiring each local school system to provide alternative educational options for children prohibited from in-person attendance..."

I agree with this bill and the reason it was sponsored: the safety of our children. Our first and foremost "job" as a parent is to protect our children. This bill will help all parents do this. I do not feel that my child(ren) or anyone else's children would be safe attending school with another child that has been charged with a crime of violence. It would mean that the State has enough evidence to bring charges against that child for a violent crime. This is not a circumstance where someone is simply saying that a child did something. This is a case where there is actual evidence that a child has committed an act of violence against another person. It is incumbent upon us as a society, and as a community, to keep all children safe while they are attending school.

Please VOTE YES on this bill so that it helps keep all of our children safe from violence!!

Thank you.

Trudy Tibbals  
Mother of 3 and Maryland resident