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Date: 01/21/2025

Subject: HB0137

As a concerned citizen, a grandparent of a Cecil County Public School student and as a County Council member for Cecil County, I am asking for a FAVORABLE position on HB0137. Due to recent events within the State of Maryland and across this country, it is crucial that our students are protected at the highest level possible. Allowing a student(s) to attend classes in person while under investigation for a serious criminal offense puts all students, teachers, and staff at risk within that school. The situation in Howard County last year with the student who was arrested in a high school for murder while carrying a backpack to school with a loaded weapon was a disaster waiting to happen. That student could have been provided with virtual learning options until he was cleared of all wrongdoing. Instead, he was in classes with students and a loaded gun. Had someone triggered him, that student could have opened fire within the walls of that classroom and the entire school, potentially killing and injuring multiple people. Let us not wait for a situation such as this to actually occur before action is taken. I beg you to please vote Favorably for HB0137 to keep our children, grandchildren and staff safe.

Donna Culberson