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February 28, 2025

Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
Maryland House Office Building
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Support for Student Safety Legislation (HB951)

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing to express my **strong support** for the proposed student safety legislation (HB951), which aims to **prevent dangerous individuals from attending our public schools**. As a resident of Harford County, I find it deeply disturbing that a known **violent offender, who was also not a legal citizen**, was permitted to attend Edgewood High School—ultimately putting innocent students at risk.

The murder of **Kayla Hamilton**, an autistic young woman, at the hands of a known **MS-13 gang member** should have never happened. Law enforcement agencies had prior knowledge of this individual's history, yet the school system was **unable to take the necessary action** to prevent this tragedy. Our schools must be provided with the **authority and information** needed to **identify potential threats** and remove them from student environments.

Harford County Executive **Bob Cassilly** has taken a stand to protect Maryland's students by **advocating for common-sense safety measures**. I urge you to support this legislation and ensure that **no other family has to endure such a preventable tragedy**.

I appreciate your time and commitment to protecting our children, and I strongly urge you to pass this critical legislation.

Sincerely,
Mary Beth Remines
Harford County, Maryland