



Frederick County Teachers Association

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Testimony in Support of House Bill 802 Civil Actions-Civil Immunity-Educator Intervention in Student Violence (Good Teacher Protection Act)

**House Judiciary Committee
February 19, 2020**

**Melissa Dirks
FCTA President**

The Frederick County Teachers Association (FCTA) supports House Bill 802, legislation that would provide that a staff member of a school is not civilly liable for personal injury or property damage resulting from intervention in a student altercation or other student disturbance if the staff member acted in good faith and was not grossly negligent.

FCTA represents 2,940 Frederick County educators and is part of the 75,000 educators and school employees, represented by the Maryland State Education Association (MSEA), who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for careers and jobs of the future. MSEA represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, along with the National Education (NEA), our parent affiliate representing 3 million-members across the country.

FCTA supports this bill because educators need to be able to act quickly in the event of a student altercation or disturbance. Often the safety of those students involved—even those who just happen to be near the event—are at risk. Educators need to be able to focus our attention on the academic needs and physical safety of our students without fearing reprisal or risk of civil liability as a result of good faith actions aimed at protecting them.

The passage of this bill would help provide a safer school environment. **As such, on behalf of the members of FCTA, I ask that you vote favorably on HB 802.**