



Bill: **Senate Bill 0432 - Public Schools - Active Shooter Safety Drills or Trainings - Requirements**

Position: **Support**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA), a professional organization representing about 500 Maryland school psychologists. We advocate for the social-emotional, behavioral, and academic wellbeing of students and families across the state.

We support the changes to the Education Article proposed in Senate Bill 0432 as they relate to active shooter/assailant drills in public schools. According to the Best Practice Considerations for Armed Assailant Drills in Schools document published jointly by the National Association of School Psychologists and the National Association of School Resource Officers, drills must ensure the proper level of readiness while balancing the potential trauma that could result from the drills. The changes proposed in SB 0432 align with these best practices. Specifically, the bill would ensure that drills, unless voluntary and after school hours, do not include potentially traumatic elements such as sounds intended to imitate gunfire, simulated explosions, or role-playing as an active shooter or victim. The bill also ensures that students and staff would have access to emotional support as appropriate before, during, and after a drill that accounts for individual student needs.

If we can provide any further information or be of assistance, please contact us at [legislative@mSPAonline.org](mailto:legislative@mSPAonline.org) or Sarah Peters at [speters@hbstrategies.us](mailto:speters@hbstrategies.us) or 410-322-2320.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chair, Legislative Committee  
Maryland School Psychologists' Association

