



Coalition for Safer Schools

TO: Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment

RE: Senate Bill 1090, Maryland Center for School Safety – Statewide
Secure Schools Emergency Response Program

Mr. Chair, Madam Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee,

The Coalition for Safer Schools represents a diverse group of individuals and organizations, all of whom have stake in the success of the educational process. In this capacity, I write on behalf of our members in support of Senate Bill 1090 (SB1090), “Maryland Center for School Safety – Statewide Secure Schools Emergency Response Program”.

The purpose of this program is to improve the safety and security of Maryland’s public schools by implementing a statewide emergency notification system that encompasses communication between public elementary and secondary school personnel, 9-1-1 call centers, and, in instances of life-threatening emergencies, public safety agencies.

The Coalition holds that the development and subsequent use of such a emergency response program, specifically for emergencies within public schools, is a crucial, and currently missing. The Coalition particularly draws the committee’s attention to the development of a panic button event system, and the required capability to generate and *automatic emergency alert*. Both components are crucial to a school facing crisis, and ensuring we are supporting schools in preparative measures as much as possible

For these reasons, the Coalition for Safer Schools supports SB 1090.

Respectfully,

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Executive Director

Coalition for Safer Schools

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