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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB0758 Criminal Law – Crime of Violence – Second Degree Assault of a School Employee or Subcontractor (School Assault Reduction and Prevention Act)**

**February 20, 2024**

**Judiciary Committee**

**Why We Need This Bill**

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the rate at which teachers were resigning from their roles was increasing in part because of rising violence against teachers. The pandemic only added to the stress that teachers had to manage, but the *increase in school violence also persisted during and after the pandemic*. This has created unsafe learning environments for students, and an unsafe working environment for school employees who already work hard educating our children. Ensuring the safety for our educators and school staff is important for maintaining healthy school environments and for providing quality education to students.

**What Does This Bill Do**

**House Bill 758** adds second degree assault of any school employee or subcontractor to the list of violent crimes in the Maryland Law Code. In its current version, the Maryland Law Code **does not protect** teachers, administrators, bus drivers, and other *school staff from acts of violence by students, ages 10-13 years*. This bill would apply to both public and private elementary and secondary schools. The inclusion of subcontractors for this bill would guarantee protections for people who work for the school but are not educators or administrative staff, such as bus drivers.

We must be willing to take a stand for our educators and school staff and set an example for our children that violence is not acceptable, regardless of whether they are an adult or not.

I respectfully ask the Committee for a favorable vote on **HB 758**.