



Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director
9 Trotters Ridge Court, Catonsville, MD 21228
410-925-2183
pssamed@gmail.com
www.pssam.org

BILL: Senate Bill 576
TITLE: Student Victim of Violent Crime - Option to Transfer or Require Offender to Transfer Schools
DATE: March 6, 2019
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
CONTACT: Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director, PSSAM
Email: pssamed@gmail.com; Cell: 410-925-2183

Senate Bill 576 requires a county superintendent of schools promptly to provide certain notice to a student who is the victim of a certain violent crime or a certain delinquent act committed by another student under certain circumstances; requiring a county superintendent, as determined by a certain victim or victim's representative, to transfer the victim or the offender to another school; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt certain regulations; etc.

PSSAM **opposes** Senate Bill 576.

Local superintendents always place top priority on the welfare of our students. If a student has been the victim of a violent crime, every school system has a procedure in place to address such an incident. Each individual school system handles each case individually on a case by case basis. School or school system administrators as well as school counselors work diligently with the parent/guardian and the student victim to determine the next step in that student's educational program. PSSAM believes that determining an educational plan to meet the individual needs of each and every student victim is in the best interest of everyone involved.

As local superintendents, we continue to advocate for local board of education governance of teaching and learning. We strongly believe that it is critical that locally governed education policies and procedures remain under the authority of local boards of education. Each local school board must have the flexibility to develop individual policies and practices that reflect the specific and diverse needs of their system.

For the reasons noted above, PSSAM **opposes** Senate Bill 576 and requests an unfavorable committee report.