


<b>F R O M</b>	Name & Title	Dr. Leana Wen, Commissioner <i>Leana Wen</i>	Health Department	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201	MEMO	
	Subject	Council Bill 15-0232R – Resolution – Teaching Non-Violent Conflict Resolution in City Schools		

To: President and Members  
of the City Council  
c/o 409 City Hall

July 10, 2015

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 15-0232R – Resolution – Teaching Non-Violent Conflict Resolution in City Schools. The purpose of this bill is to call on Baltimore City Public Schools to take steps to systematically integrate lessons in non-violent conflict resolution into its K-12 curriculum to help provide our children with the conflict resolution skills they will need to succeed in life.

The recent civil unrest and spike in violent activity in Baltimore highlight the need to teach our youth alternative, non-violent methods to resolve conflicts. By engaging youth at an early age, we can instill a sense of power to change their behaviors and resist community norms. With this change, our youth will feel more empowered and can hold each other accountable for maintaining a safe and healthy community.

This initiative would complement the Health Department’s successful program Safe Streets. Safe Streets uses outreach workers in the community to detect and interrupt potentially violent conflicts, identify and treat the highest risk individuals, and mobilize the community to change norms. Safe Streets has proven effective in our city and has the potential to markedly reduce violence while deepening community commitment and engagement. Training our youth in non-violent conflict resolution in school will support the efforts of our Safe Streets workers, further reducing violence and helping to create vibrant communities that foster children’s development.

The Health Department supports this resolution and appreciates the opportunity to discuss this important issue. We will be present at the hearing to answer any questions the Council may have on this matter.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor  
Shannon Mace, Director of Policy and Planning, Department of Health  
Andrew Nicklas, Director of Legislative Affairs, Department of Health

