



**Testimony in Opposition of  
SB 459  
Karen Herren, JD, Director of Legislative Affairs  
Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence**

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March 10, 2020

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence is a local, grassroots organization dedicated to reducing gun deaths and injuries throughout the state of Maryland, with a particular focus on reducing urban gun violence and gun suicide. **We urge the committee to vote UNFAVORABLY on SB 459.**

We know that security and safety of our schools is and should be a priority. However, MPGVA cannot support a *mandate* requiring officers to carry a firearm on school property. The current law allows a police officer permission to carry a firearm on school property. A mandate which requires the firearm even in instances where the officer might deem it an unnecessary risk, overly antagonistic, or otherwise inappropriate should not be passed. We urge an UNFAVORABLE report on SB 459.