



DATE: February 28, 2024
TO: Chair Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee
FROM: ZeroEyes
SUBJECT: Support Senate Bill 756, Primary and Secondary Education – School Safety and
Well-Being – Examination of Policies and Funding

Thank you, Chair Feldman, and committee members, for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 756. I'd like to also thank the sponsor, Senator Hester. On behalf of the ZeroEyes team, thank you for spearheading this issue.

My name is Mia Link, and I am the Vice President of Strategy for ZeroEyes. ZeroEyes was founded in 2018 by military veterans with the mission of improving public safety by providing proactive firearm detection in schools, commercial buildings, and government infrastructure.

Five years ago, ZeroEyes was spurred into action following the events at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, when a former student brought a gun into the school, killing 17 and wounding an additional 17 people. Our team has grown out of the military special operations community and is now close to 200 employees, 80% of whom are military and law enforcement veterans.

Our technology uses artificial intelligence software implemented on already existing security camera infrastructure to detect visible firearms and alert law enforcement within seconds. Again, these are existing cameras that are then integrated with AI technology. Our software does not perform any sort of facial recognition, behavioral characterization, or predictive analytics and is compliant with all privacy standards and frameworks.

In the last five years, we have experienced rapid growth. Our software is deployed into hundreds of K-12 districts across 35 states. Our service is also used and implemented within large enterprise organizations such as the Department of Defense, the Veterans Administration, Meijer, Verizon, FedEx, DHL, Subaru, and Home Depot among many others.

The lack of budget is the single greatest obstacle for schools to implement this technology. With this bill, Maryland would join other states that are prioritizing school safety by taking the initiative to fund and add a proactive, technological solution to the growing problem of gun violence in schools. We believe that this is the future direction – not just for school safety, but also for other areas such as hospitals, shopping centers, and so much more.

We look forward to the opportunity to partner with the State of Maryland and the Office of School Safety on this pilot should this legislation be enacted. We would also like to offer a demonstration of our technology, should your committee be interested.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this issue and I'm happy to take any questions at this time.