

Martin Taylor

Oppose HB302

My name is Martin Taylor and I am a resident of the State of Maryland.

I am writing you as a concerned member of the Pikesville Jewish Community who opposes HB302.

HB302 will announce to would be criminals and terrorists that our private schools are a soft target. My children go to Beth Tfiloh, in Pikesville where we are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on security annually. Tuition has gone up, a security fee was assessed to the congregation and it is only getting to be a heavier burden.

We have spent to keep our children safe and we will continue to do so. But one very important spoke in that safety wheel is our parents and congregants who are armed. We know there are armed members of our community at BT and we are happy to have them protecting us. We use them as part of our security plan in an effort to harden the defense mechanism of our School and Synagogue.

As a Jewish community HB302 would make hundreds of Jews into criminals overnight. With the raise in antisemitic attacks in America in recent years, many members of our community have recently applied for a concealed carry permit. We know that synagogues in the area have been holding defense classes. That they are allowing congregants to come to services armed. Our Rabbis have condoned this. And with all of that we are a safer community today even with the increased threat to our people.

I urge you to help us here. An amendment for carpool carry is not enough. What about shul, programs, conferences, sports games, the Siddur program or graduation?

Should law abiding citizens who have undergone training, FBI background checks, State Police Interviews, character reference checks and have stepped up to keep their family and community safe have to choose between breaking the law and protecting their loved ones?

The fact that the community has come together to say, not here, not in my shul, not in my school, not in Pikesville should give any legislator pause. We are a community unlike most in Maryland. We are a tight nit community that has stepped up to oppose HB302.

We can not rely on only the State protect our Jewish children. We will not give up our right to defend our families. That way of thinking didn't work very well throughout our history. Last time we had to turn over our defenses we lost over 1/2 of our People.

Never Again, Never Forget, Not Here...

Respectfully,

Marty Taylor