

I, Tzvi A. Skaist, a new member of the Pikesville Jewish community, oppose bill HB302.

Although I do not yet have children in private school, this bill will negatively impact me, my family, and my synagogue. I am a member of a new, relatively small synagogue in Pikesville. Most of our members are young and many of them are still students. We do not currently have the funds for a security system, let alone an armed security guard. We have to rely on responsible members of our community, who are trained and licensed to conceal and carry, to protect us.

Our synagogue is currently renting a room for services from a local yeshiva. In other words, a "non-public school". This bill would ensure that we are completely unprotected.

On any given Saturday, there are 50 to 100 men, women and children that gather at this location for services and prayer. All HB302 will do is announce to all would-be mass shooters that we are another soft target.

This bill will make us less safe!

Sincerely,

Tzvi A. Skaist