

Zachary Mannes

Oppose HB302

I think this bill has the best intentions. We all want to protect those most dear to us. But I think that the approach here is severely misguided. Particularly at risk from harm from this bill are Jewish organizations who are uniquely targeted more so than any other single group. [Many of the parents and students who attend Jewish private schools are visibly identifiable as Jewish.] This proposed government over-reach and invasion of the rights of private institutions does not take into account any of the unique challenges and reasons why it might be necessary for permitted individuals (who are not specifically highered security or LEO) to have weapons on the premises.

As an Orthodox Jew who sends my kids to a private Jewish school, I would want that PRIVATE institution to be able to decide for themselves policies re weapons.

Over 50% of all "hate crime" according to FBI is directed at Jews.

Even if the state were going to take on 100% of security for these institutions, this Bill would still be over-reach... But especially in the absence of full security support, this Bill ENDANGERS a more targeted segment of the population.

This bill would ADVERTISE to those who would do us harm that we are now "soft targets".

There is not a single case in this state or any other of a permitted concealed carry holder being an active shooter. In fact recent incidents could have been even worse had there not been private concealed carriers present.

Many of our schools are also combined with other community centers or synagogues (shuls), many of these rely heavily on volunteers*.

Many cannot afford to pay full time private security.

*It has been suggested that the institutions just make these people designated security personnel and this creates other prohibitive issues viz. liability insurance for the institution

This bill prevents them from deciding for themselves to allow MD permitted CCW holders from carrying when on premises.

I understand the politics involved in a bill like this, and that

But please at least consider "common sense" amendments to the language and allowing for further exclusions/exemptions.

Thank you,

Zachary Mannes
240-342-2130