

My name is David Hastings. I am a very average parent sending my children to a Jewish private school in Baltimore. The number one concern that I have always shared with the faculty of the school regarding their facility is the safety of the children. I need to know that my children are safe from harm for the 7 hours a day that they are not with my wife and I, and under the care of the school.

This bill concerns me, as it does not address the proper ability for the schools to determine their own safety measures on their private property. Aside from the fact that this is a clear government over-reach, it is obvious from the bill that our elected officials who wrote it lack an understanding of how our private schools operate, and security in general.

I urge you to appose this bill in its entirety. The schools are more than capable of doing research, getting expert guidance, and determining their own security protocol.

In light of the recent mass shootings and antisemitic attacks, we cannot allow ourselves to be soft targets. Security measures need be established by these institutions, but this legislation does not allow that, or give wiggle room for the schools to make future decisions.

I was on a conference call with Delegate Love yesterday, and despite the fact that she seemed like a very pleasant and well meaning representative, it was clear to me, that this legislation was not thought out, and establishing this as law can turn many private schools into softer targets and make our children less safe.

Still, not all gun owners create a safer environment by being armed while on school property. Let the school make that determination.