

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 302
No Weapons on Nonpublic School Property Act
Criminal Law – Deadly Weapons on School Property – Nonpublic Schools**

**House Judiciary Committee
February 5, 2020
1:00 PM**

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Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 302 as part of our overall advocacy to keep students and schools safe, whether they are public or nonpublic.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland’s public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for the careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

As educators, we believe one of our most sacred duties is to provide safe and secure schools for every one of our children. We must do everything we can to reduce the possibility of any violence in schools and concentrate on ways to keep additional weapons off school property and ensure the safety of children and school employees. The memories of the children and educators we have lost are a haunting reminder of the importance of keeping our schools safe. The evidence is clear, we don’t need more guns or other weapons on school property, we need fewer.

MSEA urges a favorable report for House Bill 302.