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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
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**HB 302**  
**No Weapons on Nonpublic School Property Act**

Mr. Chair, Madam Vice Chair, Members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present HB 302, the No Weapons on Nonpublic School Property Act.

State law currently prohibits the bringing of a deadly weapon onto public school property. HB 302 would add nonpublic schools to this law.

This issue was brought to my attention by a constituent. I reached out to the Montgomery County State's Attorney's office, and they confirmed that they have seen this issue and weren't able to prosecute given the fact that nonpublic schools are not covered by current law. You have a letter of support from State's Attorney John McCarthy.

I then checked with the Attorney General's office, who confirmed that we could add nonpublic schools to the law.

We are not alone in addressing the issue of weapons on nonpublic school property. The federal Gun Free School Zones Act applies to public, private and parochial schools. Twenty-six other states, plus the District of Columbia, prohibit guns in public and nonpublic schools. The states with such a ban include Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. As you can see, a broad swath of diverse states. Maryland, with its strong gun safety laws, should be among them.

As a parent of two children in nonpublic schools, I believe our law should protect public school children and nonpublic school children.

Thank you for your time, and I ask for a favorable report.