

Yacov Margolese  
Combat Veteran OIF 1

Opposition to HB302

My name is Yacov Margolese. I am a proud American, combat veteran and a current federal law enforcement officer. I have served my country out of a sense of duty and gratitude. I took an oath to support and defend the Constitution. It was not revoked. HB302 takes power and choice away from private institutions and is a clear act of government overreach and a violation of our civil rights.

The Constitution and Bill of rights were crafted in such a way as to LIMIT government overreach; a concept I know many of you support through your passage of the bill keeping government surveillance off of our phones and emails without a warrant. A bill which I fully support. This bill, however, is antithetical to delegate Love's passionate stand for civil rights, religious freedom, and intrusive government overreach. HB302 will deprive over 800 private schools of their ability to determine their own security protocols. It will make potential criminals out of over 430,000 law abiding constituents. And it will make the 25+ Jewish schools representing the 100,000 +Jewish people, of which I am proud to be part of, softer targets and more susceptible to hate crimes.

In February 1866, the House of Representatives began debating what became the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Bill of Rights, which would declare that blacks were full citizens entitled to equal protection and due process under the law. Senator Jacob M. Howard of Michigan introduced the proposal, explaining that the "great object" of the amendment is to "restrain the power of the states and compel them in all times to respect these great fundamental guarantees. ... Secured by the first eight amendments of the Constitution [including] the right to keep and bear arms."

This is a civil rights issue, not a gun issue. This law will literally shift the focus off of those involved in criminal behavior and place it squarely onto law abiding citizens. For example, those of us with valid Carry Permits would still not be able to attend parent/teacher conferences, school productions, science fairs, or holiday parties without being criminalized. Synagogues and schools which are co-located would no longer be able to rely on the congregant body as a protective measure, a child who brings in a pocket knife, an employee who carries a box cutter, and myriad of other scenarios will make innocent constituents, some of whom who are already vetted, interviewed by State police, passed an FBI background check and trained to carry, specifically to protect our communities and schools, into criminals.

According to the ADL from 2017- 2019, there were **9,556** incidents of extremism of which over 5200 were anti-Semitic in nature, with a dramatic increase in physical assaults, including the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history. A wave of anti-Semitic robocalls targeted Jewish schools, JCCs and synagogues, and a significant number of incidents occurred at K-12 schools and on college campuses. None of these nearly 10,000 incidences were carried out by Law Abiding Citizens.

I urge you to oppose HB302 in its entirety.