



STATE'S ATTORNEY  
JOHN J. McCARTHY

## State's Attorney for Montgomery County

50 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

(240) 777-7300  
FAX (240) 777-7413  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sao](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sao)

DEPUTY STATE'S ATTORNEYS  
PETER A. FEENEY  
RYAN S. WECHSLER

February 4, 2020

The Honorable Luke Clippinger  
Chairman, Judiciary Committee  
House Office Building, Room 101  
Annapolis, MD 21401

### **Re: HB 302 Criminal Law – Deadly Weapons on School Property – Non-Public Schools**

Dear Chairman Clippinger:

I am writing to you today in support of HB 302. Under current law (Criminal Law Article, section 4-102) with certain exceptions, a person may not carry or possess a firearm, knife, or deadly weapon on public school property; however, the statute is not applicable to non-public schools.

HB 302 would extend the statute's prohibition to non-public schools. The bill would retain the current law enforcement officer exception for possessing a weapon on public school property and make it applicable non-public school property. Moreover, the bill would permit a person designated by the non-public school specifically for the purpose of guarding the school property to carry a weapon on school property.

It should be noted that over half of the states and the District of Columbia have statutes that prohibit the possession of firearms and weapons on non-public school property. Included in this list are our neighboring states of Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

In short, protection of our children and is paramount. Weapons have no place in our schools, whether they be public or non-public. I want to thank Delegate Sara Love for her leadership on this important legislation, and I urge the Committee to return a favorable report.

Sincerely,

John J. McCarthy  
State's Attorney for  
Montgomery County, MD