



**Testimony in Support of No Weapons on
Nonpublic School Property Act
HB 302
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Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence**

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Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence is a local, grassroots organization dedicated to reducing gun deaths and injuries throughout the state of Maryland, with a particular focus on reducing urban gun violence and gun suicide. **We urge the committee to SUPPORT House Bill 302 to prohibit weapons on non-public school property.**

The Maryland General Assembly has already determined that it is inappropriate for deadly weapons to be utilized on public school property under most circumstances. This piece of legislation merely expands this prohibition to nonpublic school property. There is no justifiable reason for a separate standard for non-public school properties.

As noted by the Gifford's Law Center, "proposals offered by the gun lobby to arm teachers and repeal gun-free school zones laws are dangerous and counter-productive. There is no reason to believe such proposals will help curb those rare instances of gun violence at school. Teachers are not trained law enforcement officers—their purpose is to be educators and role models. Further, the gun lobby's claim that "gun-free zones" invite mass shootings has been thoroughly debunked by research showing that the overwhelming majority—nearly 90%—of all high-fatality gun massacres since 1966 have occurred wholly or partly in locations where civilian guns were allowed or there was armed security or law enforcement present. (Daniel W. Webster et al., *Firearms on College Campuses: Research Evidence and Policy Implications* (Oct. 15, 2016), 10-11, <http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-policy-and-research/pdfs/GunsOnCampus.pdf>. The paper's authors also note that "when rampage shootings do occur, very rarely are they stopped by gun-wielding civilians." *Id.* at 24.)"

MPGV urges the committee to **SUPPORT** the No Weapons on Nonpublic School Property Act (HB 302).