

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



**NRA**

February 5, 2020

Delegate Luke H. Clippinger  
House Office Building, Room 101  
6 Balden Street,  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 302**

Dear Chairman and Committee Members:

The National Rifle Association (NRA) opposes legislation that would expand the firearms prohibition to include all “nonpublic” school property along with public school property. At present MD Code, Criminal Law, § 4-102 already prohibits the possession of a firearm (and other “deadly weapons”) on public school property. Maryland Handgun Wear and Carry Permit holders are not exempt from this prohibition. House Bill 302 aims to create a similar restriction creation while creating a narrow exemption where a nonpublic school may hire an armed individual to guard the nonpublic school property.

As you are likely aware, a ten-year ban on semi-automatic firearms and standard capacity magazines was enacted at the federal level in 1994. It failed to have any demonstrable effect on violent crime. After the ban’s sunset in 2004, a Department of Justice funded study determined that “the ban’s effects on gun violence are likely to be small at best and perhaps too small for reliable measurement.” A restriction on where guns are and are not allowed to be will not prevent a criminal from bringing a gun onto a school’s campus.

This legislation would be a severe attack on property rights, as it would strip a property rights holder of the right to govern how firearms are treated on their property. Further, this legislation would curtail the rights of private schools to determine for themselves how best to provide for the security of their students and faculty.

Sincerely,

David Weber  
Maryland State Director  
NRA-ILA