



HB782 Study on Detecting Deadly Weapons in Public Middle and High Schools

Thursday, March 27, 2025

EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SUPPORT

Our names are Julien Halleman, Noah Gordon, Olivia Chin, and Dhru Nahan, and we are students of Anne Arundel County and executive team members of the Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils (CRASC). We are writing in support of HB782 Study on Detecting Deadly Weapons in Public Middle and High Schools. If passed, this bill would mandate the Maryland center for school safety to study the detection of deadly weapons in public middle and high schools.

Safety has become an issue of utmost concern in this day and age. Schools, once places of refuge for all students, have increasingly become places of fear. In a world filled with division and uncertainty, schools should be places where students feel secure—where their only concern is their education and preparing for the future.

From AI-based detection systems to advancements in traditional metal detectors, the methods of keeping students safe are constantly evolving. Studies have shown that while some security measures can deter weapons from entering schools, there is no universal solution. For example, recent implementations of advanced weapons detection technology have shown promising results. The School District of Lee County in Florida reported a 39% decrease in total incidents from 604 in 2023 to 366 in 2024 after introducing the OPEN GATE weapons detection systems. This suggests that modern detection methods may contribute to enhancing school security.

We must act proactively, rather than reactively. This study will provide Maryland with the data needed to make informed decisions about school safety, ensuring that any measures taken are both effective and feasible. The safety of our students and educators should never be left to guesswork—this study is a necessary step toward creating a secure learning environment for all.

There has been much discussion in this session on how to improve our education without massive funding, and student's feeling safe and secure is undoubtedly an excellent way to achieve this.

The CRASC Legislative Department refers back to the following relevant clauses of the CRASC Platform:

- *CRASC Supports...* Responsiveness to school safety and security threats such as active shooter, bomb threats, violent altercations, and local criminal activity ; (Plank 5, Clause H)
- *CRASC Supports...*Schools, policymakers, and the community taking a proactive stance on school safety; (Plank 9, Clause G)

Accordingly, CRASC respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on SB151.

Respectfully Submitted,

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