

<b>Bill:</b>	House Bill 782	<b>Date:</b>	February 21, 2025
<b>Title:</b>	Study on Detecting Deadly Weapons in Public Middle and High Schools	<b>Committee:</b>	Ways and Means
<b>Position:</b>	Support with Amendments	<b>Contact:</b>	Kimberly Buckheit <a href="mailto:kimberly.buckheit1@maryland.gov">kimberly.buckheit1@maryland.gov</a> 443-902-0622

On behalf of the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS), thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of Support with Amendments to **House Bill 782**. MCSS remains committed to assisting local school systems in implementing a [layered approach](#) to school safety.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with the bill sponsor on incorporating suggested amendments. MCSS believes that with the amendments outlined below, House Bill 782 can be supported.

### **Exemption from Public Disclosure**

MCSS strongly believes that all data, reports, and materials that include potentially sensitive safety or security information about a public school (e.g., materials produced from this study, evaluation, and the school system audits) be provided specific protections afforded to other school safety and security materials under the Public Information Act (General Provisions § 4-314.1).

### **Responsible Agency**

The activities defined in this bill fall within the scope of work currently being performed by MCSS.

### **Report Timing**

A survey, audit, and evaluation of technology for approximately 400 middle and high schools across 24 local school systems, including a review of technology not currently being utilized, will take more than six months. Therefore, MCSS has recommended modifications to the report timing to include an interim report on December 1, 2025, with a final report on or before June 1, 2026.

Thank you again for taking the time to review this information as you consider House Bill 782.