



Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair
Delegate Michael A. Jackson, Vice Chair
House Office Building, Room 121
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

House Bill 1078 – No Funding for Firearms Act

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chairwoman McIntosh, Vice Chair Jackson, and Appropriations Committee Members:

We are writing on behalf of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA), a professional organization representing about 500 school psychologists across the state. We advocate for the social-emotional, behavioral, and academic wellbeing of students and families across Maryland.

The purpose of this letter is to provide our support for House Bill 1078 – No Funding for Firearms Act, which is scheduled for hearing on February 27, 2020. This bill prohibits county boards of education or public school systems from spending public funds to directly or indirectly provide teachers with firearms, or train teachers in the use of firearms.

The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), along with the National Association of School Resource Officers, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the American School Counselor Association, and the School Social Work Association of America, created *A Framework for Safe and Successful Schools*¹ (cited below and available on the NASP website: www.nasponline.org). This document outlines the core components of school safety, which include improving access to school-employed mental health professionals (e.g., school psychologists, school counselors), in order to meet all students' needs. These professionals provide ongoing treatment, assessment, and behavioral threat assessments for students at risk of harming themselves or others.

MSPA, along with NASP, strongly believes that possession of a firearm on school campuses should be limited only to commissioned, trained school resource officers. This is a position strongly endorsed by the National Association of School Resource Officers, who also have reported extensively on the hazards associated with individuals possessing firearms who lack extensive law enforcement training and who have the sworn authority to enforce public safety.

MSPA supports House Bill 1078 – No Funding for Firearms Act, and we respectfully urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any additional information, or be of any assistance, please contact us at legislative@mspaonline.org.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chair, Legislative Committee
Maryland School Psychologists' Association

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¹ Cowan, K.C., Vaillancourt, K., Rossen, E., & Pollitt, K. (2013). *A framework for safe and successful schools* [Brief]. Bethesda, MD: National Association of School Psychologists.