

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety  
For HB 198

Compiled on: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 11:09 PM

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Hearing Date: April 25, 2023 2:00 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Edward Marsh, Mr.  
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Currently, school marshals are required to conceal a weapon to protect school district's students and staff. Though there are some positive attributes of school marshal weapon concealment, the element of surprise is not advantageous after an attack occurs.

Open carrying of a firearm to protect students and staff of a school is more valuable than concealment and protecting the identity of who carries a firearm in a school. Open carry school marshals would deter those who want to cowardly hurt others in our schools. As Martha McSally advises, "the whole idea of deterrence is to convince your enemy that you are willing and able to make it so painful for them to continue on a threatening or bellicose course that they change their behavior." This concept of deterrence is vital for the protection of our children and their futures. Providing this method of open carry school marshals could alleviate some dangerous activity being planned or executed.

Allowing school marshals to open carry displays an authority to use lethal force for the protection of the school's students and teachers. The identification of school marshals on the personnel's uniform, would also reduce the risk of potential friendly fire from incoming peace officers during an insider threat encounter. Due to the potential hazardous event of neutralizing a threat or saving a person's life, we as school marshals are having to wear ballistic vests, a firearm, a radio, and a tourniquet to stop bleeding from extremities. These are difficult to conceal in a natural manner. Due to this, we are having to wear an overtly large shirt that is untucked to cover our weapon. Consequently, this makes school marshals appear as if we are unprofessional and lack authority to protect the school. Open carry will reduce a step in drawing our weapon more quickly on a threat. If school marshals are granted this changed provision, students and teachers would benefit from higher levels of safety.

Crystal Pedroza, School Marshall  
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Relating about open carry for school Marshalls