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St. Mary's College of Maryland

**House Bill 1002 / Senate Bill 906
Weapon Free Higher Education Zones**

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**House Appropriations Committee
March 1, 2016
and
Senate Judicial Proceedings
March 9, 2016**



**Tuajuanda C. Jordan, President
Chip Jackson, Vice President for Business and Finance**

(This information may be found online at <http://www.smcm.edu/government-relations/>)

House Bill 1002 / Senate Bill 906 Weapon Free Higher Education Zones

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 1002 / SB 906 – Weapon Free Higher Education Zone, which prohibits the possession of firearms, knives, or deadly weapons on the property of public higher education institutions. This bill is consistent with St. Mary's College of Maryland's goal to provide a safe and secure campus that promotes openness and a healthy learning environment.

The St. Mary's College Code of Student Conduct currently prohibits illegal or unauthorized use, possession, or distribution of firearms, explosives, or other dangerous weapons on College premises. House Bill 1002 and Senate Bill 906 will expand this prohibition to faculty, staff and visitors, except as allowed under the exemptions as provided in the bill.

St. Mary's College of Maryland understands that the University System of Maryland has proposed an amendment to this legislation, requesting an exemption under 4-102 (a):

(6) A PERSON WHO IS REQUIRED OR AUTHORIZED BY POLICIES OF AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO POSSESS A FIREARM, KNIFE, OR DEADLY WEAPON.

St. Mary's College of Maryland supports HB 1002 and SB 906 and the proposed amendment as submitted by the University System of Maryland.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Mary's College of Maryland.

