



**SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE  
February 10, 2011**

**Testimony on SB 311 – Weapon-Free Higher Education Zones**

**Submitted by  
Clay Whitlow, Executive Director  
Maryland Association of Community Colleges**

**POSITION: Letter of Support with Amendments**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

On behalf of Maryland's 16 community colleges and the students we serve, I am contacting you regarding SB 311 that prohibits an individual from carrying a weapon of any kind on the property of a public institution of higher education.

Community colleges are in support of this legislation; however, we are concerned about individuals in our culinary classes, biology courses and police academies that may require knives for instructional purposes that could be construed as weapons. We ask that the Committee consider an exemption that would provide for instructional purposes. The amendment offered by the University System of Maryland addresses our concerns.

Add an exemption under 4-102 (a)

(5) a person who IS REQUIRED OR AUTHORIZED BY POLICIES OF AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION to possess a firearm, knife, or deadly weapon.