



**Testimony in Opposition of Public Safety - Permit to Carry,
Wear, or Transport a Handgun - Qualifications**

HB 845

Karen Herren, JD, Director of Legislative Affairs

Shaelyn Wishop, Intern

Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence

March 3, 2021

Dear Chair Clippenger, Vice-Chair Atterbeary, and Members of the Committee,

Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence is a local, grassroots organization dedicated to reducing gun deaths and injuries throughout the state of Maryland, with a particular focus on reducing urban gun violence and gun suicide. We do our work through preemptive strategies like programs for at-risk children, the telling of victim stories, violence prevention and intervention coalition work, and legislation.

We urge an UNFAVORABLE report on HB 845, that seeks to expand firearm wear/carry rights to individuals on the basis of personal protection and self-defense. There is no basis in the theory that the carrying of a handgun, absent a specific threat, has the effect of increasing public safety.

We urge an UNFAVORABLE report on HB 845.