

Jon C. Munson II
c/o 6613 Pepin Drive
Upper Marlboro, Maryland
20772-3825

240-305-7240

March 1st, 2022

Testimony of Jon C. Munson II

Maryland General Assembly

House Judiciary Committee

HB1206 - FAVORABLE

Dear Sirs/Madams:

Regarding HB1206 Public Safety – Handgun Permit Required – Repeal, I SUPPORT this bill.

WHEREAS, the Constitution for the United States, Bill of Rights, 2nd Amendment states:

*“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, **shall not be infringed.**”* [emphasis added]

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland has acknowledged within its CONSTITUTION OF MARYLAND that the Constitution for the United States is the “...Supreme Law of the State...” (Declaration of Rights, Article 2),

WHEREAS, criminals do not care about gun laws and likely prefer localities with strict gun control in order to easily commit their intended crimes, see

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45Z-WarobmA> – Dan Bongino (former law enforcement officer),

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18 WHEREAS, there are many times over more defensive gun uses than actual crimes committed,

19 see

20 <https://americangunfacts.com/guns-used-in-self-defense-stats/>,

21 WHEREAS, gun control is inherently racist and disproportionately affects minorities and low-
22 income groups, see:

23 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bwiNTlEmrw> – Colion Noir

24 WHEREAS, gun control does not work (it only punishes the law-abiding citizenry), see:

25 [https://www.american.edu/media/pr/20211022-spa-study-of-impact-of-massachusetts-gun-](https://www.american.edu/media/pr/20211022-spa-study-of-impact-of-massachusetts-gun-control-legislation-on-violent-crime.cfm)
26 [control-legislation-on-violent-crime.cfm](https://www.american.edu/media/pr/20211022-spa-study-of-impact-of-massachusetts-gun-control-legislation-on-violent-crime.cfm),

27 and

28 <https://www.personaldefenseworld.com/2022/01/democrat-cities-break-homicide-records/>,

29 and

30 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RgC1yrWRNo0> – Colion Noir,

31 and

32 <https://press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/493636.html/> - “*An interview with John Lott, Jr.*”,

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33 WHEREAS, gun control does not address underlying causes of violent crime and is likely to
34 have a different purpose, see:

35 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6800291/> - “*Is gun control really about people*
36 *control?*”; James I. Ausman and Miguel A. Faria,

37 WHEREAS, recent world events such as in the Ukraine have demonstrated the need for an
38 armed citizenry, fully justifying the 2nd Amendment,

39 WHEREAS, it is likely that a ruling in *NYSRPA vs. Bruen*, is likely to favor NYSRPA and thus
40 affect the State of Maryland’s permitting scheme,

41 THEREFORE, it behooves the State of Maryland to adhere to its declarations, act accordingly,
42 and no longer infringe on the rights of the People to “...keep and bear Arms...” by requiring any
43 sort of permit, fee, or other infringement, before exercising their just right to so do.

44 Permitting a right is, by nature, reducing that right to a privilege – it forces the intended exerciser
45 to require state permission before acting. That reduction is then subject to regulation in addition
46 to the potential for government abuse/misuse. In the case of Maryland, the right to keep and bear
47 arms is considerably hampered through Maryland’s “may issue” permitting policy which rarely
48 allows the normal, law-abiding, peaceful citizen to exercise his natural right – only excepting
49 certain persons with the particular backgrounds of military or law enforcement. Otherwise, those
50 who apply for a permit must demonstrate considerable need and are rarely issued.

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51 This bill will remove the current impediment to the peaceful citizen, with the consequences of
52 potential reduction of crime as those would-be offenders would now be faced with bodily harm
53 as a deterrent to their acts.

54 Opponents of this bill would cry “Wild West!” or “Disaster!”, however, in the at least 21 states
55 that have passed such legislation, this has not occurred. Instead, the outcome has been very
56 favorable – there is no “Wild West”, or “Disaster” as a result. See:

57 <https://www.gunowners.org/why-adopt-constitutional-carry-law/>

58 In conclusion, there is simply nothing to be gained by any furtherance of any permitting or gun
59 control methods. Such methods don’t work, are racist, adversely affect population, punish the
60 law-abiding peaceful citizen, do absolutely nothing to address the underlying causes and
61 circumstances that produced gun-related, or any arms-related, violent crime, and don’t result in
62 the sort of “catastrophe” imagined by those would favor said methods.

63 I request you return a FAVORABLE opinion.

64 Sincerely,

65 //s// Jon C. Munson II