

## *Written Testimony of Katie Novotny in support of HB1206*

March 06, 2022

I am a member of Multiple Gun Rights organizations. Maryland Shall Issue, Associated Gun Clubs, Maryland State Rifle and Pistol Association, and the National Rifle Association. I am a certified Range Safety Officer with the NRA. I compete in multiple shooting events such as Steel Challenge, 3-gun, small bore, and vintage military rifle matches. I am an avid firearms collector. I support HB1206.

Currently 21 states have Permitless Carry. These states also have lower violent crime rates than Maryland. Clearly Maryland is on the wrong side of history here. As more states move towards liberal licensing practices, we have more data proving that concealed carry holders do not contribute to crime. The January 2019 study published by the American College of Surgeons found this conclusion: "This study demonstrated no statistically significant association between the liberalization of state level firearm carry legislation over the last 30 years and the rates of homicides or other violent crime. Policy efforts aimed at injury prevention and the reduction of firearm-related violence should likely investigate other targets for potential intervention."

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S107275151832074X>

Currently Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire are rated as the three safest states, and they are all Constitutional Carry

Studies also show that concealed carry permit holders are more law abiding than even police officers. <https://www.dailywire.com/news/report-concealed-carry-permit-holders-are-most-law-abiding>  
Firearms violations rates for police officers are at 16.5 per 100,000. In Texas and Florida, for permit holders, that rate is only 2.4 per 100,000.

Because of these reasons above, I request a favorable report.

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