



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

**HB 1174/SB327**

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Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence**

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Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Moon, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee,

Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence is a statewide, grassroots organization dedicated to reducing gun deaths and injuries throughout the state of Maryland. We urge the committee for an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 1174 which seeks to loosen the requirements for authorization of a carry, wear, or transport of a handgun permit in the State of Maryland.

In recent years the gun lobby has worked tirelessly around the country to loosen gun laws and to allow guns to be carried in public by anyone, anywhere, any time with no questions asked. Maryland law has a process for allowing public carry when a person can demonstrate a legitimate need to do so. This bill seeks to allow a generalized self-defense claim as a reason to justify a wear, carry permit. This more guns in public spaces approach does nothing except make the general public less safe. The presence of more guns in public spaces makes crime more violent. Guns make hostile interactions like assaults and robberies much more deadly. And while there is some data suggesting that guns reduce property crimes, there is equal evidence that less deadly weapons like mace or a baseball bat have the same effect. There is no legitimate reason for loosening Maryland's wear, carry standards.

MPGV urges an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 1174.