



**Testimony in Opposition to Public Safety -
Handgun Permit Requirement - Repeal
(Maryland's Constitutional Carry Act of 2022)**

HB 1206

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Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence**

March 9, 2022

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice-Chair Moon, and distinguished member 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 1206 to repeal Maryland's historic and current standards for carrying firearms in public.

Historically, almost every state prohibited or strictly limited the carrying of concealed, loaded weapons in public places. These restrictions were among the earliest gun laws adopted in the United States. In the late 20th century, some states began to grant law enforcement discretion to issue permits to people who passed a background check and received firearm safety training and/or demonstrated a particular need to carry hidden, loaded guns in public. Over the last 20 years the gun lobby has pushed many states to substantially weaken standards for qualifying for these permits—and 21 states have now eliminated these protections entirely. Maryland is not one of those states.

Guns carried in public pose a substantial threat to public safety. A robust body of academic literature shows that when more people carry guns in public, violent crime increases.¹

Maryland's standard for granting wear carry permits takes safety and need into consideration. This is appropriate and should remain the standard. MPGK urges an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 1206.

¹ John J. Donohue, Abhay Aneja, and Kyle D. Weber, "Right-to-Carry Laws and Violent Crime: A Comprehensive Assessment Using Panel Data and a State-Level Synthetic Control Analysis," *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies* 16, no. 2 (2019): 198–247.

Jeffrey DeSimone, Sara Markowitz, and Jing Xu, "Child Access Prevention Laws and Nonfatal Gun Injuries," *Southern Economic Journal* 80, no. 1 (2013): 5–25. See also, "Effects of Concealed-Carry Laws on Unintentional Injuries and Deaths," RAND, Gun Policy in America, <https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy/analysis/concealed-carry/unintentional-injuries.html>.