



**BILL NO:** House Bill 1206  
**TITLE:** Public Safety – Handgun Permit Requirement – Repeal (Maryland’s Constitutional Carry Act of 2022)  
**COMMITTEE:** Judiciary  
**HEARING DATE:** March 9, 2022  
**POSITION:** **OPPOSE**

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The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges House Judiciary Committee to issue an unfavorable report on HB 1206.**

Current Maryland law sets reasonable standards to obtain a permit to wear, carry, or transport a handgun. House Bill 1206 would repeal the requirement that a person over the age of 21 must obtain a permit before the person carries, wears, or transports a handgun. Of the 58 domestic violence related deaths in Maryland in 2021, 76% were caused by guns. Maryland’s wear, carry, or transport handgun law is well-balanced and allows for those that can demonstrate a good and substantial reason to obtain a permit.

Higher rates of firearm ownership correlate to a higher rate of domestic violence homicide according to a 2019 study.<sup>1</sup> There is a 65% higher incidence rate of domestic firearm homicide in the states with the highest firearm ownership compared to states with lower ownership rates.<sup>2</sup> Since women are the most common victims of domestic violence homicide, they are most at risk with increased gun ownership.<sup>3</sup> Black women are disproportionately the victims of domestic violence homicide with a firearm with an estimated 51.3% of Black adult female homicides found

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<sup>1</sup> Kivisto, A.J., Magee, L.A., Phalen, P.L., Ray, B.R. (2019). Firearm ownership and domestic versus nondomestic homicide in the U.S. American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Abstract:

[https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797\(19\)30197-7/fulltext#articleInformation](https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(19)30197-7/fulltext#articleInformation)

<sup>2</sup> Merovsh, Sarah. “Gun Ownership Rates Tied to Domestic Homicides, but Not Other Killings, Study Finds,” NY Times, (July 22, 2019) <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/22/us/gun-ownership-violence-statistics.html>

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

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to be related to intimate partner violence.<sup>4</sup> The risk of homicide for women increases by 500% with the presence of a gun in the home.<sup>5</sup>

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence** urges an **unfavorable report on HB 1206**.

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<sup>4</sup> Petrosky, E., Blair, J.M., Betz, C.J., Fowler, K.A., Jack, S.P.D., & Lyons, B.H. (2017). Racial and ethnic differences in homicides of adult women and the role of intimate partner violence - United States, 2003-2014. MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 66(28), 741-746. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/pdfs/mm6628a1.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> The National Domestic Violence Hotline, Retrieved 1/29/21, <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/safety-planning-around-guns-and-firearms/>

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