

Since Maryland repealed their “good and substantial” requirement for wear and carry permits in the wake of *Bruen*, 100,000 Marylanders went through the arduous process of obtaining the required training and submitting their application so they could lawfully exercise their right to self defense. These applicants completed 16 hours of classroom training, obtained numerous references, and were fingerprinted all at a personal cost of over \$500 in some cases. This proposed bill would show all of these applicants that all of their efforts were for naught and despite doing everything they can to lawfully defend themselves, they will no longer be able to carry a firearm at the majority of places they encounter in their day to day lives. These citizens who were approved for their permits have proven that they are not criminals and were deemed lawfully qualified by the Maryland State Police to exercise a right protected by the United States Constitution. If SB-1 passes, these law abiding citizens would now have their rights stripped as if they were criminals. This law will not stop criminals from carrying firearms as they already act without regard to the laws of society. We should be empowering our citizens to exercise their rights instead of condemning them for it and give them the means to lawfully defend themselves from those who wish to do them harm. If SB-1 were to pass, the Maryland General Assembly would be disenfranchising over 100,000 citizens who have done everything they can to act within the framework of our laws only to have the goal posts moved again. I urge our elected representatives to oppose this bill so that our citizens may be encouraged to act lawfully instead of being punished for doing so