

Brooks Wainwright

About SB 1 (Gun Safety Act of 2023)-**Oppose**

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your time addressing the different stances on this bill. I am writing to strongly oppose the passing of SB 1. This Bill has major implications for those who are legal and safe gun owners all over the state. It will essentially remove any usage of a Concealed Carry Permit. This is in direct opposition to The Supreme Court's Bruen decision.

SB 1 is attempting to make the state safer by removing areas where people can carry firearms. The odd thing is, it's removing that right from people who have had to pass extensive background checks as well as firearms training. These are not the people that are the cause of firearms crimes in Maryland. This law will do nothing to affect violent crimes that are committed with firearms, usually by constant repeat criminal offenders.

We can look at statistics from other states who have long allowed Concealed Carry Holders in public areas. According to the CDC, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Florida all have very similar Firearm Injury Death Rates, at 13.5, 13.6, and 13.7 per 100,000 respectively. However, if you look at their Homicide Rate, Maryland is already much higher at 11.4 deaths per 100,000 compared to Pennsylvania at 8.5 and Florida at 7.8 per 100,000. Then look that Florida already has 2,611,646 Concealed Carry Permit Holders and Pennsylvania has 1,563,787. It is easy to see that Concealed Carry Holders in public are not the cause of firearms crime. Each state has far more Concealed Carry holders than Maryland does.

Instead of restricting Law abiding Marylanders, we need to work on prosecuting and locking up the people who abuse Firearms. A perfect example of this is Austin Davidson, who shot and killed Wicomico County Sheriff Deputy First Class Glenn Hilliard last year. Austin had previously been convicted of armed robbery with a handgun at a McDonalds. He received a 3 year suspended sentence and probation before judgment for his crimes. Along with numerous other crimes and warrants, he would go on to walk free and end the life of an amazing Deputy from my hometown.

To close, it is clear that this law will do nothing to curb firearms related crime. All it will do is stop me and so many others from being able to defend ourselves and our families against the evil of this world. I have passed the background checks, taken all the state training, I've never even been pulled over by a cop in my 32 years. Am I really the problem?

Thank you,
Brooks Wainwright