

I'm asking you to please vote against Bill SB0001 the so-called Gun Safety Act of 2023. This bill is directly targeting lawful gun owners with legal carry permits. In case you do not know the process of getting a carry permit, please allow me to inform you the process of getting a wear and carry permit. If someone wants a carry permit, that person cannot just walk into a gun shop or any other establishment and "buy" a permit and walk out with one. The first step is to sign up for and pay for a 16 hour/2-day training class. The average cost is around \$350, and I believe \$50 of that goes to the Maryland State Police as a fingerprinting fee. During the class everyone is taught the responsibility of carrying a firearm and the ramifications of actually using a firearm to defend themselves. Part of the training is using a simulator to know when to shoot and where and when not to shoot. Before the student can pass the class, the student must qualify by hitting a target with a minimum accuracy. Then once the student has passed, he/she then applies for the permit. There's another fee paid to MD State Police for the permit in the amount of \$75. The wait time is up to 90 days from when the application was submitted. During the wait time, the MD State Police run a background check and if the applicant does not have a criminal record the permit is mailed out. This is the legal process to obtain the carry permit for law abiding citizens to carry a firearm in their possession for protection against criminals. On the other hand, criminals do not go through this process because they do not follow any other laws, restrictions, or bans. Also, the guns themselves have probably been obtained illegally as well. It's been talked about on the news about people feeling safe and hinting that if more people have guns on them people will not feel safe. I contend that knowing more people have legal permits to carry firearms will deter at least some criminals from committing face to face crimes such as robberies, car jackings, sexual assault and/or rapes and murders. If you look at any celebrity or higher politician, they will have an armed security guard with them. I for one, pray that I never have to use my firearm to defend myself or my family. But I and my family feel safer knowing I have my legal firearm on me in case the need arises. So, if this bill is not withdrawn and it gets to a vote, I ask you to please vote against it as it is directly targeting legal gun owners with legal permits, not criminals. I truly thank you for doing so and thank you for voting against Bill SB0001 during the 2023 legislative session.

Have a blessed day and stay safe.

Thank you,

George Saunders of Centreville, MD