

SB 0001

While I am providing testimony on my own behalf, I am the president of Onyx Sharpshooters, the Prince George's County chapter of the National African American Gun Association (NAAGA). I am also the State Director for Maryland and Washington, DC for said national organization.

First and foremost, this bill is unconstitutional. It goes completely against the spirit and intended practice of the 2nd Amendment.

While the senator sponsoring this bill claims to be doing so for "*public safety*", if this bill becomes law, it will actually make Maryland a **LESS** safe state. Not only are those who support and those who oppose the 2nd Amendment and concealed carry watching to see if this bill becomes law, so are the criminals. They are waiting to see if their field for potential victims is broadened by this bill becoming state law. Passing this bill would only disarm law-abiding citizens who conceal carry to protect themselves and their loved ones. Consider the fact that passing this bill will not just make them *feel* less safe, they will **be** less safe.

Secondly, those who favor this bill only do so emotionally; not on the basis of facts. When they speak of themselves, family members and/or loved ones being injured or killed by violence committed with a gun, they **NEVER** say that the culprit of said crime was a concealed carry permit holder. That is conflation. Concealed carry permit holder are **NOT** the problem! Concealed carry permit holders and criminals are **NOT** the same nor do those two separate groups operate on the same principles. Law abiding citizens who conceal carry would also like to take guns out of criminals' hands. However, disarming law abiding citizens does not accomplish that goal nor does it make our state any safer. Again, it puts the person who would ordinarily be able to protect themselves with their handgun in a vulnerable, unsafe condition.

Lawmakers were elected to make laws and govern based upon the facts, not feelings or emotions. While you are free to act upon feelings and emotions in your own personal lives, these feelings and emotions **should not** determine how you view the facts of this situation.