

Esteemed Senators and Delegates,

My name is Gregg DeLeaver and as a registered Democrat, voting male, African American who lives in Montgomery County, I am opposed to SB-1 and request that you vote against the apparent party line, that is dangerous to law abiding citizens in this state.

This bill will, if implemented, will disenfranchise many in the African American community who are your constituents.

It is important to note that African Americans represent a growing number of gun owners who are purchasing guns for their safety. The proposed bill will disproportionately impact people of color who worry about the rise of white supremacy, which the **US Senate (S.894, section 2, 2)** recently found to be the most significant domestic terrorism threat facing the United States (read people of color). You will disarm **US** in the face of a growing threat to our very existence.

Sources

[Black Women Are The Fastest-Growing Group of Gun Owners](#) .(Essence Magazine)

[Black People Are The Fastest-Growing Group Of Gun Owners In The U.S. : The NPR Politics Podcast : NPR](#) (NPR)

[Boom: 5M new gun owners, with 58% black and 40% women | Washington Examiner](#)
[Text - S.894 - 116th Congress \(2019-2020\): Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act of 2019 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)

Your constituents' views on gun ownership and possession are changing and its important that you and the party change with it or risk loosing the majority in this state.

Other points to consider:

This law will impact the woman who was raped and was told that if she testifies he will kill her. She testified, he went to jail, and now gets out in next month. She obtained a HCL and a Concealed Carry Permit in 2020. She will no longer feel safe and be able to protect herself in Public if this bill is passed.

This law will impact the many Marylanders applied for and were approved for a Concealed Carry Permit, by the Maryland State Police under the previous "May Issue" statue. They have a recognized need to carry because of a threat, and this bill will disarm them. This bill will disarm **ME**.

The implementation of this bill would prevent many of your constituents from exercising their Second Amendment right beyond the boundary of their property because they

otherwise would run afoul of the bill with the transport of arms outside of their residence which causes them to pass a school, a park or a place of public accommodation.

This bill is counter to the definition of "Public" as defined by **Black's Law Dictionary** and also violate the **14th Amendment** by preventing law-abiding citizens with ordinary self-defense needs from exercising their Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms in public for self-defense. Most roads in this state are public roads and this bill effectively prevents the traverse of these roads thus limiting their right to carry in public.

Please consider voting unfavorable/against party lines (you represent the people, not your party) and in line with recent Supreme Court rulings. I will be in Annapolis on Feb 7, 2023 to speak out against these bills and to observe the session. I and many other people of color may have to start considering voting Republican if you don't see clear to support the new trend amongst your African American constituents. Please consider art enacting bills that address the criminal and mentally insane people who commit the heinous acts which make our great state one of the deadliest in the nation.

Respectfully,

Gregg DeLeaver
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