

Testimony *AGAINST* HB001

Gabriel A. Terrasa
Columbia, MD 21046

Honorable Chairman and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I have been a resident of Howard County for nearly 30 years. I have been a union attorney for 25 years. I have been a Democrat all my life, and I am probably farther to the left politically than most member of this Legislative Body.

I am writing to testify *AGAINST* HB001.

I have been a lawful gun owner in Maryland for years. I first obtained my Maryland Wear and Carry License as a business owner under Maryland's pre-*Bruen* law. Initially, I carried predominantly to go to the bank to make business deposits. In August 2021, however, I began to carry daily after a client and I were threatened with violence. Charges were filed with Anne Arundel County Police, and the Anne Arundel County State's Attorney filed a criminal harassment case, Case D-07-CR-21-008035. The defendant in that case is currently under a two-year probation-before-judgment.

More recently, on January 27, 2023, my wife and I were the victims of road rage. The driver of a car got out of his vehicle and threatened to kill us several times. He also told us "foreigners" to go back from where we came. These threats took place in Howard County and were reported to police as a hate-bias incident (Case No. 23-7232).

My point is that even before the United States Supreme Court decision in *Bruen*, Maryland recognized that there were circumstances under which citizens were justified in carrying a concealed weapon. HB001, however, would leave those people without the ability to carry. Victims of threats of violence, victims of domestic violence, business owners who carry large sums of money to the bank will no longer be able to protect themselves if HB001 becomes law.

The worst way to address a bad court decision is to enact bad law.