



TESTIMONY TO SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

SB0001- Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms - Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023)

POSITION: Support

BY: Nancy Soreng, President

Date: February 7, 2023

The League of Women Voters believes that the proliferation of handguns and semiautomatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong measures to limit the accessibility of firearms and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens.

The League of Women Voters of Maryland Supports the passage of SB0001- Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms - Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023). This bill would prohibit anyone from knowingly carrying, wearing, or transporting a firearm onto the real property of another person without having certain permissions.

Unfortunately, more guns do not make us safer in this country and reducing the number of guns' citizens are exposed to can help to ensure that we are safer in our communities. If more guns made us a safer place the United States would be one of the safest places on earth. However, this is not true because more people die each year because of the out-of-control gun violence epidemic. According to Everytown for Gun Safety "the rate of gun deaths has increased **33%** from 2011 to 2020 in the United States. This means that in 2020 there were **12,871** more gun deaths than in 2011." The League of Women Voters of Maryland strongly believes that the restriction of guns can make a difference and help us live safer lives.

The League of Women Voters Maryland urges a favorable report on SB0001.