

335 Silky Oak Ct  
Linthicum Hts, MD 21090  
February 6, 2023

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 1 (Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms – Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023)

To: Senators Waldstreicher and Lee

As a US military veteran, I **oppose** Senate Bill 1 (Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms – Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023).

Today, a Maryland concealed carry firearm permit holder requires a background investigation, fingerprint search, and firearms training. Therefore, Maryland is not issuing permits to everyone who requests one. These permits allow individuals to be able to protect themselves and their friends and families against unprovoked attacks by others brandishing weapons such as hammers, knives, and guns.

I recall an incident when I was driving my car with a friend to get a hamburger. When my passenger and I were getting out of my car someone rushed up and put a knife to my passenger's throat. If a woman in the parking lot wouldn't have yelled "No, that's not him," my friend and I may not be alive today. Incidents and people such as these is what law-abiding citizens need to be able to protect themselves from.

I request the Committee take no further action and abandon this senate bill.

Sincerely,

Charles Watkins

dr.watkins@yahoo.com