

Reference: SENATE BILL 001

Position: OPPOSE

Written Testimony
submitted by:

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TO: State of Maryland Senate Judiciary Committee

Honorable Senators,

I write to you in opposition to the proposed legislation referenced above as a **taxpayer** and **citizen** taxpayer to the state. I was born in the state of Maryland and except for two years in the early 1980's have lived in the state my entire life. My father retired from the Maryland State Police in the early 70's, his career in law enforcement with the aviation division instilled in me nothing but respect for the law and respect for others.

As a **taxpayer** I question why this legislation is being put forward right now. There are other states that have passed or proposed similar legislation, every single one has been challenged in court, and the overall early results are not promising for these types of laws to be long lived. So again, as a taxpayer I ask, why burden our Attorney General with this when we know it will be challenged in the court system, perhaps all the way to the Supreme Court. Let other states expend their resources to fight this battle before expending Maryland taxpayer dollars to do the same. Be more prudent with the tax dollars collected from Maryland citizens, the people you work for.

As a **citizen** I have long recognized that for the most part, it is up to me and not the State for personal security. While I live in a relatively safe area and feel generally safe, it is not because of the government, it is because of the attitude of the people around the geography where I am. And I am safe **UNTIL I AM NOT**. So when I (or anyone else) becomes **not safe due to the actions of others** that are mentally unfit or someone who is generally criminally minded, we know that most times there are only seconds or perhaps a few minutes to react, hopefully to retreat, but in cases where retreat is not possible, one has to defend oneself until law enforcement can arrive.

That being said, I am sure that you will ***never be able to control illegal actions*** of others in public areas if they mean to do harm, and until you can without infringing rights and responsibilities of citizens, creating restrictions on those law abiding citizens to be able to defend oneself will in its self create harm to the citizens.

It is easy to do the due diligence and find unbiased statistics on firearm crime. So do that, and realize that in general the crimes committed by firearms are committed by criminals who purchased or obtained said firearm illegally. You can also find some unbiased statistics that indicate there are hundreds

of thousand possible altercations where a citizen with a firearm was able to defend themselves without firing a shot. It is also surmised that many of those altercations are never even reported and no one is injured or worse.

When the Supreme Court handed down the Bruin Decision in 2022 and Maryland had to drop its substantial reason requirement, I decided that it was prudent to be better prepared for personal defense issues as the 2nd amendment allows, again, **you are safe until you are not**. So I expended my treasure, took the comprehensive training, got the fingerprinting done for background checks, applied for and proudly received my State of Maryland permit. Am I safer when I carry? I am as safe as I was before the permit **until I am not**, but at least now I have another tool to work with until law enforcement can be there. I do not want that ability of any tool to defend and protect family or myself to be taken from me, and I am not just talking about in my home, but in public settings where bad things happen to good people by others with no disregard for the laws you may pass.

If the State moves forward with this type of legislation and passes this as law, I believe that class action and other lawsuits could be filed against the state for several reasons –

First: The harm (cost) of allowing citizens to pay for the privilege of exercising their 2nd amendment rights when the Maryland regulations were changed because of Bruin, all of the costs that citizens paid for this should be refunded in full because of the denial of self protection caused by this new law.

Second: The first time a citizen who is/was legally permitted is injured (or worse) because they were confronted with danger from others criminally or mental health issues and were unable to successfully retreat and defend themselves before law enforcement can arrive, all the damages sustained by that person or God forbid, the persons estate should be paid by the State of Maryland.

Can this State promise me (or anyone) or even infer that I will be safe if this legislation becomes law? I believe the answer to that question is NO. Therefore I will be remain responsible to myself and my family the best I can - let me and responsible others do the same. I stand OPPOSED to the bill.

Thank you for taking my written testimony for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William Hudson

cc: Honorable Senator Johnny Mautz and the Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes

