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Senate Bill 0001 (SB0001)

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

I am vehemently **OPPOSED** to the passing of Senate Bill 0001 (SB1). As one of many law-abiding Maryland residents, I rejoiced when this state switched from being a “may-issue” to “shall-issue” state following the decision in the Supreme Court Ruling of NYSPR vs Bruen during the summer of 2022. This decision from the highest court in our land meant that Maryland (along with several other states) could no longer subject residents to unconstitutional, subjective requirements in order to legally carry a firearm. While I already have an inalienable right to the self defense of myself/loved ones, the 2nd amendment doubles down that this right SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED. This bill seeks to subvert a decision made by the Supreme Court.

By definition, a criminal disregards law. Passing SB1, will have no effect on that demographic. However, it will have a profoundly detrimental effect on people like myself who simply want to continue to peacefully live in a law-abiding manner while still having the tools AND locality permissions in order to exercise lethal measures should I/loved ones be confronted with great bodily harm/potential death with no means of retreating.

I have been violently victimized in this state before. I revisit that frightening experience at times. Knowing that I was cornered by multiple assailants, had I been armed, the story might have turned out a bit differently. Thankfully, I am still here to tell the tale. However, that is not always true of other cases. The fact is that police/law enforcement are not omnipresent. They cannot always rescue citizens when it matters most. Because of this, we should be strive to be our own first responders, as our very lives can literally depend on it. As your constituents, we should be encouraged/empowered to defend ourselves as best as possible against these types of heinous acts.

Stated plainly, this bill only endangers the wrong demographic (law-abiding citizens) while simultaneously emboldening the criminal element, as they'd be unlikely to think twice about victimizing a citizen because that citizen likely will not be armed anywhere accept inside their homes.

Please withdraw this bill expeditiously.

Respectfully,

Keith C.