

Elected officials,

I am writing this testimony in opposition of the passing of SB0001, which would restrict law-abiding Maryland citizens from exercising their right to self defense in a life-threatening situation. 100,000+ Marylanders underwent extensive training, fingerprinting, and background checks to be able to submit the wear and carry application; this was done at the expense of the applicant, sometimes costing up to \$500. Not to mention the money that these permit holders spend on continued training, range practice, gun maintenance supplies, and ammunition. The ability to hold this permit and legally carry a concealed firearm is not something that we take lightly. I am a wife, mother, nurse, graduate student, and active member of my community. I appreciate the work being done to try and make Maryland a better place...but the passage of this law is not an example of that work. This law negatively affects LAW-ABIDING citizens and does nothing to prevent violent crime happening in Maryland. Criminals will continue to conceal weapons and act with complete disregard for Maryland law. The Marylanders who put in the work and were deemed safe and competent by the Maryland State Police to hold this permit are the ones who will suffer. We should be empowering Marylanders, not punishing them for respecting the law. I ask this question: how many shootings have been committed by wear and carry permit holders in Maryland since the repeal of the "good and substantial" requirement? I am urging elected officials to use common sense and rational thinking regarding SB0001. Please oppose the passage of this legislation...make our voices heard.

Thank you,

Gianna Barcikowski