

SB0001 – Unfavorable Written Testimony

Alexandra Rak, resident of Charles County Maryland

Dear Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit public comments opposed to SB0001 – Gun Safety Act of 2023

SB0001 is clearly designed to test the limits of the recently decided *Bruen* Supreme Court Decision, which unfairly plays politics with law-abiding citizens of this state. There has not been an increase in gun violence from lawful concealed carry owners. However, crime in Maryland is concerning and the Supreme Court recently reaffirmed that the right to keep and bear arms is a *fundamental and unfringeable human right*. While I can empathize with Marylanders who do not own or like guns (I, myself, am actually not a gun owner), there are no compelling state interests for keeping law-abiding citizens from protecting themselves in communities where violence from criminals is increasing every day.

However I feel on a personal level about the bill, I do fear a legal quagmire for the state should you pass this bill. It is clear that the 100 feet of an “accommodation” provision would infringe on business owners’ ability to carry their legally obtained handguns for the purposes of protecting themselves and their property during the regular business activities. Prior to *Bruen*, the Maryland restrictions on wear and carry licensing was very burdensome and many interpreted as only being available to business owners who carry cash. This new bill would exclude those permitted business owners who obtained their wear and carry permits under the old, burdensome rules. That is going to be a hard-to-defend constitutional challenge for the legislature and governor and will be an expensive burden on tax payers.

There is no way to amend this bill without infringing on the decision-making and choices of individuals or small business owners in this state. Please return an unfavorable report for SB0001.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Rak

Charles County Resident