

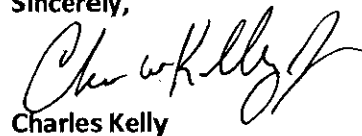
February 6, 2023

Reference: SB001-Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms - Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to voice my concern and disapproval of the proposed SB001. This bill is unconstitutional and is violating the rights of law-abiding citizens. Removing the right to legally carry a firearm for self-protection is wrong. I am not sure how this proposed bill will cut down crime of any type. Criminals will still steal, hurt, and kill innocent citizens. This proposed bill takes away my right to defend myself in a violent situation. Unfortunately, due to other laws restricting the punishment for a violent offender these types of criminal acts continue to occur. This bill basically allows a citizen to carry a legally purchased firearm on the private property only. Violent acts occur in public establishments. I ask you to think of a situation where either yourself or a dear family member is in a fast-food restaurant, convenience store, retail store, etc... and a violent criminal comes into the establishment with weapons and intent to hurt/kill others. Is it best for all the citizens in the situation to be unarmed and unable to have the choice to defend themselves effectively? Or have a few responsible legal carrying citizens to be able to defend themselves and others to stop the threat. This bill gives the criminal an open book to kill as many as they want knowing that no one would be able to protect themselves. Is the life of yourself, child, spouse, or parent not worth the right for individuals to have protection. Again, criminals do not care about laws. If they did, they would not be criminals. I just heard last week a great comparison for guns laws. It is not guns that kill or injure the citizens of Maryland, it is the people committing the crimes. Creating more gun laws would be like banning the use of a fork to stop obesity. It is not the fork that is making people overweight, it is the people. Same for the guns. I have spoken to several law enforcement individuals and they all are 100% behind the right to carry a legally purchased firearm. If someone threatens the life of myself or my family, I have the constitutional right to protect. This bill is only harming the innocent and helping the criminals. The citizens of Maryland that have legal carry permits have taken the required training and back ground checks. Now this bill is treating us as criminals and taking our rights away. I pray that individuals voting on this bill use common sense. I pray that this bill is not approved, and the citizens of Maryland do not continue to loose our rights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "C" and "K".

Charles Kelly