

Members of the Senate, my name is Gregory Hobbs, and I am testifying in opposition to Senate Bill SB0001 The Wear, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms act Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023). This bill restricts law-abiding concealed carry permit holders such as myself from carrying outside of their homes without the specific consent of a business owner or other homeowner to where I am traveling or to any public location. This makes it almost impossible to legally use my concealed carry permit anywhere within the state except my own home. As I'm sure you are all aware, crime is on the rise within our state, and it seems that there are daily violent events throughout our nation.

With the proposed bill, I would only be able to have use of firearms within my home. My home is my fortress which I am able to defend. I can install a security system and prepare for a possible hostile situation. However, in a public setting, I am more vulnerable and so is my family. A situation can quickly change from a night at the movies to a life-or-death scenario in a matter of seconds. Having the ability to defend my life and the lives of my loved ones by having a concealed carry permit, which is frankly legally practical as is in withstanding current law, is a tool that enables me to prepare for the possibility of having to protect those that I care for from harm if an unfortunate event arises. Carrying a firearm is not taken lightly by myself and many others with the same mindset. We understand that it is a tremendous responsibility, but it is a responsibility that we have chosen. We have chosen to be the protector of our families. If this bill passes, we will lose the ability to ensure our personal safety, which in today's society is never a guarantee. This is why my position on SB0001 is unfavorable.

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