

Senator Smith,

I am sending in a written testimony and wish to speak as well on Tuesday February 7<sup>th</sup> regarding the bills being heard at the Judicial proceedings.

First SB0001 Criminal Law – Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms- Restrictions (Gun Safety Act 2023)

When I read what this bill says, the determination that now all public places and private places are gun free zones I begin to realize that this law is to say that all citizens who follow the law do not matter. As you can imagine criminals do not follow the law so they will be very happy to have free reign to go where ever they please to use their illegal guns to commit crimes and go unpunished while doing so.

A call to the police when a criminal is pointing a gun at a law abiding citizen could be answered in 20 minutes or so if the police have the staff to do so. But think of the terror of a Mother with her children being held at gunpoint and being robbed or beaten, or worse just so a criminal can get what every they want. Then if the mother survives, she will know that the criminal might get a slap on the wrist and be out of jail in hours if caught.

The number of Concealed Carry holder in this state is up substantially because it has become a scary place to live, not because the people just want to freely carry a gun. So many of the students I have taught are truly grateful to be able to provide the first response to a threat, rather than wait 20 minutes for some one to come when the threat is long gone.

Karla Mooney

21175 Marigold St

Leonardtown MD 20650

Maryland State Leader of The DC Project

Maryland State Leader of Armed Woman of America

NRA Multidiscipline Firearms Instructor