

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Both my wife and I are almost 71 years old. Both she and I have been hobbled by age related physical issues. In the past, I never paid much attention to the issues concerning the 2nd amendment. However, times and situations have changed. Unfortunately, evil has taken hold in this country. We are Jewish. Antisemitism and other forms of hate crimes now permeate newspaper headlines. As Jews, history has taught us what intolerance and bigotry looks like. It is ugly, random and violent. Carjackings, mall shootings, armed assaults and such occur way too often today. Violent crime committed by those who do not care what laws they are breaking or harm they do. As seniors, quite frankly this scares us. We are one of the softest targets you may find. I went through the process of securing a Maryland wear and carry permit so I may legally carry a weapon if in the unlikely event I may need it. I do not wish to use this weapon. I do not wish to harm anyone. However, I frequent malls, parks and other venues that expose my wife and I to the dangers that present themselves these days. Logic tells me that any of the legislation that the senate bill proposes will not make me feel any safer. On the other hand, it places my wife and I back in the days of feeling uncomfortable in public places. Always looking over my shoulder. I spent the money for training and the wear and carry permit to adhere to Maryland law. I feel that the state Senate now feels that myself as well as other wear and carry permit holders are menaces to society. Unfair and unjust. I am a law-abiding citizen without a criminal record. I have been vetted by the FBI and state police in every step of the permit process, from securing my HQL, to purchasing a handgun (waiting 7 days), to finally filing for my permit. I additionally work for the Federal Government. In order to work there, I had to get fingerprinted and pass a vigorous FBI background check. Unfortunately, law enforcement only gets to an incident when the damage has been done and therefore can't be depended on to prevent an attack on myself or my wife. Please understand the peril you potentially place my wife and I under by considering this proposed legislation. We too wish to feel safe.

Thank you.