

Written Testimony in opposition to SB 0001 Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms - Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023)

Dear members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing in staunch opposition to the ill-conceived SB 0001, a bill aimed at nullifying my wear and carry permit.

I am an employed, law abiding family man. I do not hold any one political party affiliation. I spent months of training, thousands of dollars and qualified under Maryland law, and in the subjective examination of the Maryland State Police to carry a firearm. I carry a firearm proudly, as a shield to defend my life and the life of my loved ones if it is ever needed. Please justify the reason for this Bill.

What percentage of crimes are committed by citizens that have wear and carry permit? Of the hundred of murders in the State of Maryland, how many are committed by citizens with a wear and carry permit?

Overall, how many gun crimes ( robbery, assault, murder) are committed by legal gun owners?

I am confident the data shows, if it even exists, that gun violence is almost NEVER committed by legal gun owners and/or those who qualify for a wear and carry permit. Therefore this bill is not based in ANY reality of crime reduction, in fact it promotes the opposite and tips the scales in favor of those who do commit the crime, un-licensed gun users i.e. criminals.

The University of Pittsburgh released a study in 2008 that showed less than a fifth of crimes were committed by a legal gun owner. That is a fact.

Laws that restrict gun ownership/carry by otherwise qualified persons disproportionately affect low income citizens. These citizens are those that need protection the most. Those that do not have the privilege of crime free communities and private security deserve the natural right to defend their lives when no other means are available.

Why are we not fixing a broken justice system that allows repeat offenders time and time again to commit the vast majority of crime (this data is available)?

Law abiding, hard working citizens are a low hanging fruit. Please address the real causes of crime, please devote my tax dollars to fixing what we know is the problem, not "fixing" a problem that does not exist.

Finally the Supreme Court of the United States recently ruled in *New York Rifle and Pistol vs Bruen ET. AL.* that the very restrictions called for in SB 0001 are unconstitutional. Passing this Bill guarantees lawsuits from our local Second Amendment advocacy groups based on this case law. I would support such lawsuits. Tax dollars spent defending these lawsuits could be spent on addiction treatment, improving education, and enriching programs aimed at ending poverty. These are the issues that cause crime. These are the hard issues, but the issues we have entrusted our elected officials to solve.

Logic, data, case law and common sense supports giving SB 001 an UNFAVORABLE report. I thank you for your time and attention.

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