

*James H. Barnes, Jr.*

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While I will not be present in Annapolis on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> for the hearing on Senate Bill 1, I wanted my voice heard in opposition to Senate Bill 1 and Senate Bill 118 – Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023), and any other similar legislation that may be introduced during this legislation session. I firmly believe that the members of the Maryland General Assembly should wisely concentrate their time and efforts toward the criminals who continue to use firearms in the commission of a crime which are either not registered and or stolen. These repeat offenders are the genesis of the crime problem affecting, not only Baltimore City, but the entire State of Maryland. Stricter laws and stricter enforcement of these laws should be the focus of the General Assembly in order to begin a reduction to the violence that we are experiencing. Persons in the State of Maryland who have successfully applied for and have received a valid wear and carry permit from the Maryland State Police have invested their time and money in firearm training. Additionally, they have gone through a background check including fingerprinting. Those with a valid wear and carry permit are not the people committing crimes with handguns and should not be restricted in legally carrying their firearm as represented in Senate Bill 1 and 118. Let's focus on the real problem and that is the criminals who are illegally using firearms in the commission of crimes and not the people legally possessing a valid wear and carry permit in the State of Maryland.

Respectfully,

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