

Hello, my name is Victoria Bergstrom, and I am a Charles county, Maryland resident. I oppose the bill introduced by the senate – SB 1, which would effectively make it illegal for wear and carry permit holders to carry their firearms anywhere. After fulfilling training requirements, background and reference checks, paying the state of Maryland, and waiting months to receive them, our permits will be useless. Will you be reimbursing the citizens the millions of dollars they have paid the state of Maryland to obtain them?

A politician from Montgomery county said that the reason they passed a similar bill was because of the alarming increase in firearm related crime. This is also the reason that there has been an increase in wear and carry permit holders. We have a right to self defense. It is a basic human right that is protected by our country's constitution. You are supposed to uphold the constitution, not pass overreaching bills because you are upset that the Supreme Court did its job. Data have shown that making it illegal for law abiding citizens to carry for self defense does absolutely nothing to reduce gun related crimes. It gives criminals less fear that there will be any consequence for their actions. A person intent on committing a gun related crime is not going to pay upwards of \$500, complete multiple days of training, and then wait months to receive permission from the state to carry a weapon to their crime.

This bill is also not supported historically by the constitution. "Sensitive" places can only be limited to legislative buildings, polling places, and maybe schools. Guns are already prohibited in these places. Eventually this bill will be overturned in the legal system. Passing this bill will only cost the Maryland taxpayers hard earned money that could be spent somewhere else, and will leave them defenseless in the meantime.

Finally, I would like to point out that all gun control is historically rooted in racism. All historical attempts in this country were to disarm black and indigenous people. Today, gun control laws disproportionately affect minorities. The second amendment right to keep AND BEAR arms is essential to equality.

