

**SB1 Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms - Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023)**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Waldstreicher

**Committee:** Judicial Proceedings Committee

**Organization Submitting:** Lower Shore Progressive Caucus

**Person Submitting:** Dr. Nicole Hollywood, LSPC

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB1 on behalf of the Lower Shore Progressive Caucus. The Caucus is a political and activist organization on the Eastern Shore, unaffiliated with any political party, committed to empowering working people by building a Progressive movement on the Lower Eastern Shore.

In June of 2022, the United States Supreme Court issued a dangerous decision in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen*, which rendered a provision in state concealed carry permitting laws, like one we had in Maryland, that required those who wished to carry concealed guns in public to demonstrate “proper cause”. This effectively significantly lowered the bar for concealed carry and as the research has established, more guns in more places do not make us safer.

The Maryland General Assembly has an opportunity this session to guard against the dangers of increased reckless public carry by expanding the scope of sensitive places so as to prevent firearms from being within 100 feet of places of public accommodation such as hotels, inns, theatres, and food and retail establishments serving alcohol. SB1 would also make it illegal to carry a permitted gun on anyone’s property without the permission of the property owner.

The evidence overwhelmingly suggests allowing almost anyone to carry a concealed gun in public increases violent crime, gun theft, workplace homicide and mass shootings. Designating sensitive places of public accommodation where firearms pose a significant danger to public health and therefore should be permitted will maximize public safety and this bill does so in such a manner that it withstands constitutional scrutiny.

The Lower Shore Progressive Caucus supports this bill and recommends a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.