

Martin Taylor

300 Red brook Blvd #204

Owings Mills, MD 21117

Re: SB0001 (Gun Safety Act of 2023)

Position: Unfavorable

Date: 2/6/2023

Honorable members of the Maryland General Assembly,

I am writing today to oppose the Gun Safety Act of 2023.

In recent years the Jewish community has come under attack, both verbally and physically.. According to the Anti-Defamation League 2021 recorded the highest levels of Antisemitic attacks since record keeping began in the 1970s.

In 2019 Jews were attacked in a Kosher supermarket in New Jersey and in 2018 we all remember the horrific Tree of Life Synagogue shooting, leaving 11 dead.

The proposed bill would limit my right, as an American Jew to defend myself and my family against such an attack. It will serve to make our synagogues, schools and communities soft targets as criminals, who don't follow the rule of law, would know that no one in the area is armed and no one will confront an attack on a Jewish institution.

In our community many wealthier synagogues and schools have hired armed security. This comes at an incredible cost to our community. Yet many other institutions can't handle the financial burden of paying someone else to provide the security that keeps us safe. We, as a community have formed Gun Safety Advocacy Groups, we provide instruction on safe firearm handling, provide instruction and provide first aid and stop the bleed training. What other communities need to do that?

SB0001 would make all of our efforts worthless and turn our responsible gun owners into criminals for protecting their homes, schools and places of worship. SB0001 would declare open season on our community.

Only 10 days after International Holocaust Remembrance Day, this assembly is looking to once again, turn our people defenseless. While we say Never Forget, it looks like some don't understand that Never Forget is easily forgotten. America is supposed to be a place where we can feel safe to practice our religion without fear. Disarming us in our places of worship is doing the exact opposite.

Please consider my testimony and please do not force Jewish Marylanders to choose between following a law and defending themselves against those who wish to harm us.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Taylor', written in a cursive style.

Martin Taylor