



**Senate Bill 01**

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

Position: **OPPOSE**

Date: March 29, 2023

To: Judiciary

The Caroline County Commissioners **OPPOSE** SB 01, Criminal Law – Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms – Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023). Currently, with the recruitment and retention issues across the Law Enforcement community, the need for self-protection is vital. With the passage of this legislation, law-abiding citizens will be prevented from access to the means of personal protection.

Caroline County is 326 square miles with a population of approximately 34,000 residents. The County is monitored by two Sheriff's Deputies, one in the north portion of the County and one in the south portion of the County, while one officer staffs the department office. Caroline County does not host a State Police Barrack, resulting in Caroline sharing Troopers with two other Counties. At times, this leaves our residents with less adequate response times for police protection.

The Caroline County Commissioners have full faith and confidence that the current processes set in place by the Maryland State Police are more than sufficient in deciding who has the right to Wear, Carry or Transport a firearm within the State of Maryland. Preventing a citizen who has been through the proper processes and trainings to Wear, Carry and Transport a firearm, in virtually any public place, is insensible, negligent, and irresponsible.

Maryland is a special place to us all. That is why the Caroline County Commissioners believe that each Marylander who has been vetted and through the requirements to Wear, Carry and Transport a firearm and is approved to do so, has the right to protect themselves and their families when seconds matter the most, but help is minutes away. With this, we respectfully request an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 01.

Sincerely,

J. Travis Breeding  
President  
Caroline County Commissioners