

Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

I am writing to oppose SB0001 and request you reject this legislation.

SB0001 unconstitutionally restricts my ability to carry a firearm for self-protection in many common areas. Disarming citizens who have been approved by the Maryland State Police (MSP) to conceal carry firearms is illogical. In my over 10 years volunteering with the police department, I frequently witnessed priority calls for service go unanswered as officers were unavailable. Considering this, personal protection is not something that can be reliably outsourced.

SB0001 disenfranchises a large portion of the constituency. As a holder of a MD HGP license, I have completed the required MSP training and background requirements. Implementation of SB0001 is inconsiderate of the time and money I and many others have invested to obtain a Maryland HGP license.

Many neighboring states offer proof that holders of CCW licenses are significantly less likely to commit a crime involving a firearm. With the surge in Maryland HGP licensees, we have not seen a commensurate increase in violent crime. It would appear this SB0001 is a solution in search of a problem. Incidents of violent crime involving a handgun in MD are overwhelmingly committed by individuals who possess firearms illegally. This bill does nothing to address the real issue. Criminals will continue to carry firearms in these prohibited places while citizens who respect the law will be unjustly disarmed.

Respectfully,

Chris