

SBoo01 Written Testimony

I have read the proposed bill, SBoo01, and keep asking myself what the Maryland government is **really** trying to accomplish. Not only with the proposed laws but also those which have been in effect regarding the legal carrying of a firearm in public in the state of Maryland.

Criminals and others seeking to do harm don't care about laws. If they have an intent to harm using a firearm, they will do so without regard for whether they are breaking the laws for legally obtaining the firearm and having the proper permit to carry it in public. Law-abiding citizens with a firearm wear and carry permit are not the people committing the crimes which prompt these types of laws to be proposed. They have taken the time to educate themselves about the proper use of firearms, how to use them safely, when to use or not use them and have obtained the proper permit to carry a firearm in public. The proposed restrictions within SBoo01 frame the law-abiding citizen with a wear and carry permit as a person who can't be trusted in many public areas along with the areas that have been defined in prior passed related laws. They are **not** the enemy and **not** the criminal.

Restricting law-abiding citizen's ability to protect themselves in the same manner as a criminal or someone seeking to do harm is arrogant. As a living entity, people have the right to protect themselves as they see fit. It is not another human being's place to dictate how or when. There is also verbiage in Amendment II of the U.S. Bill of Rights which states, "shall not be infringed". I am not sure which part of that verbiage is up for interpretation. It's **not** "shall not be infringed" except for when you go to the movie theater with your family. By prohibiting the legal carrying of a firearm in even more public places, situations will be created where a criminal or someone seeking to do harm will take advantage of the possibility that fewer (or any) law-abiding citizens will be armed in order to protect themselves and the individuals they care about. All of us have seen the scenario time and again in the news over the decades of the cities and public areas where firearms were not "allowed" and a person who was not legally eligible to own or carry a firearm obtained and used it in a manner to harm. Have we not learned from this? A firearm is an inanimate object. It does not inflict harm unless a **person** uses it for such. The real root of the problem needs addressed. You must ask yourself why someone would be driven to break the law by illegally obtaining a firearm and using it to harm and resolve it before it starts. Mental health, desperation, monetary gain and social pressures are some issues that could be part of the **real** problem. Let us lift up our fellow Marylanders and communities by providing them with the resources they need so they don't feel there isn't hope or that they have to act out in some manner. Maybe if those areas are focused on with permanent solutions instead of taking a "Band-Aid" approach to a problem that affects law-abiding wear and carry permit holders we all can live with less government-imposed restrictions.

In conclusion, the only portion of SBoo01 I agree with and support is the removal of the following:

Maryland's "good and substantial reason" requirement for issuance of a permit to wear, carry, or transport a handgun currently under MD Code, Public Safety, § 5-306(a)

Respectfully,

Stephanie M. Motter

Amendment II:

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, **shall not be infringed.**