

In reference to SB1 before the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to document my opposition to Senate Bill 1. It has been made abundantly clear; this Bill is nothing more than an attempt to disparage the Supreme Court's decision in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen*, 597 U.S. \_\_\_\_ (2022).

The primary concern and reasoning I've heard cited for this Bill's purpose is "If people don't feel safe, nothing else matters". This Bill is not about feeling safe, rather it seeks to strip law-abiding citizens of their reaffirmed rights to carry a firearm in public for self-defense. My direct rebuttal to this quote is simple; **I don't want to feel safe; I want to *BE* safe**, and legally carrying a firearm is one of the ways I plan to do just that.

I have been joined by more than 110,000 others who have also taken the necessary steps already in place to obtain a Wear and Carry Permit. The locations listed in SB1 which would disarm these individuals would prove to cause more harm than good. To put it plainly, my safety, nor anyone else's safety, cannot be guaranteed by the State or its agents in many of these locations. It is also unfair to the State and its agents to assume the risk and undue burden of shouldering the responsibility for my safety and as many others. Adding this list of prohibited locations would also create an undue burden on law enforcement officials. It is not unreasonable to assume that police officers may treat individuals differently depending on their status at the time of their encounter. This status can include a number of factors including, but not limited to; occupation, age, race, gender and general demeanor. For example, it's not unreasonable to assume a police officer would be more lenient towards a Circuit Court Judge who happened to be carrying a firearm in a sit-down restaurant that serves alcohol, than they would be towards a day-laboring carpenter who is self-employed and commits the same infraction. It seems SB1 ignores the obvious when it comes to law enforcement, its primary factor relies on humans just like everything else. SB1 places another undue burden on police officers to make snap decisions and creates a larger gap where mistakes are likely to be made. As we know, mistakes involving firearms can result in deadly consequences, even if unintentional.

While I would like to imagine SB1 would make a difference to create a safer State, it's made clear that criminals, and often repeat offenders, do not abide by the laws already in place. Thus, SB1 would do little except look to punish those who wish to legally carry firearms and widen the gap between the public and law enforcement. Given this information, I ask for an unfavorable report.

Jordan Hartlove  
8272 Clearfield Road  
Denton, MD 21629