

3/27/23

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in **opposition** to SB01, Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms - Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023), as it is a outrageous violation of my rights as a U.S. citizen and is clearly a knee-jerk reaction to the recent Supreme Court ruling regarding concealed carrying of handguns.

I am a Doctor of Nursing Practice, college faculty, a firearms instructor, a mother, a wife and a Baltimore City Resident. I need to keep myself and my family safe from violent offenders. I pray that I never have the need to use my firearm to defend myself or my family. I carry pepper spray with the hopes that if a situation occurs, it may be able to escape using that. It won't work if the offender has a firearm, though.

This bill would essentially make it illegal for me to carry anywhere that I go. If I was unknowingly carrying a firearm in a newly prohibited place [just about anywhere], the penalty would cause me to lose my nursing license and my livelihood as well as possible prison time. Please don't cause the citizens of Maryland to become instant criminals by us being arrested for carrying a firearm for our protection.

The concealed carry permit does not make us into vigilantes. The USCCA training for the concealed carry does anything but that. Many people with their concealed carry permit, choose NOT to carry when they realize the weight of the responsibility. For example, the Royal Farms near me on Key Highway had an armed robbery with firearms at 9am about 2 weeks ago. I can tell you that if I were in that store, I probably would not have drawn my firearm. It is possible that doing that could have escalated the crime in progress. I would have drawn and possibly fired the firearm if my life was directly in danger at that moment. I'd be happy to have further conversations about this topic with any of you. Myself and fellow instructors would also be delighted to present a concealed carry training course to you.

Sincerely,

Wendy Jo Hannon

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