



BILL NO: Senate Bill 1
TITLE: Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms -
Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023)
COMMITTEE: Judiciary
HEARING DATE: March 29, 2023
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 1.**

The risk of homicide for women increases by 500% with the presence of a gun in the home.¹ The 2021 domestic violence homicide numbers were the highest they have been in over ten years.² There were 58 Marylanders that lost their lives as the result of domestic violence in 2021. At least 47 children were left behind as a result of these deaths. A firearm was used in 76% of the deaths.

Since the recent Supreme Court decision in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* which struck down as unconstitutional a NY law and therefore Maryland's law requiring a good and substantial reason to obtain a wear and carry permit for firearms, there has been an exponential increase in the number of wear and carry permit requests filed in Maryland. Even without the "good and substantial reason" language, Maryland's current public carry permitting statute allows for a background check and investigation into the applicant. Ensuring that the people who are authorized to carry firearms into public spaces are adequately trained and determined by Maryland State Police to be people who do not demonstrate a propensity for violence is imperative. In addition, there are still spaces where the public carrying of firearms may be deemed inappropriate: sensitive locations. Senate Bill 1 seeks to clarify and codify what are sensitive locations.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on SB 1.**

¹ The National Domestic Violence Hotline, Retrieved 1/29/21, <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/safety-planning-around-guns-and-firearms/>

² https://www.mnadv.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2022-Memorial-Program-Trifold_Final-Version.pdf