

## March 29, 2023 Testimony – House Judiciary Committee

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to speak to your committee regarding Senate Bill 1. My name is Cathy Wright. I am a registered voter and live in North Beach, south Anne Arundel County. While I am a volunteer grassroots leader for the NRA's Institute for Legislative Action and a member of the NRA Board, I come here today representing myself.

The bill is overbearing, tramples on the rights of law-abiding citizens, and makes it harder to carry for self-defense. Senator Waldstreicher has failed to explain how disarming law-abiding, trained, and licensed individuals will increase public safety. He has presented no plan to punish violent criminals, who already ignore existing laws. In addition, the chair of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, Senator Will Smith, recently said on a local radio show that permit holders, of which there are now more than 114,000 in MD, are not contributing to violent crimes. Why would the state want to make it harder for law abiding citizens to defend themselves? It seems as if this is just a vindictive reaction to the landmark ruling by the Supreme Court (NYSRPA v. Bruen) that struck New York's proper cause requirement to carry outside the home.

The bill, even as amended, is still unconstitutional and I'm sure will be challenged in the courts, a waste of taxpayers' money.

This bill does not address violent crime, nor will it make Maryland safer. I respectfully ask that you oppose this bill. Thank you for your consideration.