



TESTIMONY FOR SB0001

Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms - Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Waldstreicher

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0001 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

There are many pieces of legislation that have been written to protect the citizens of this state. And one of the hallmarks of the violence in our society is the fact that, in many places, the ability to walk around with a loaded weapon is commonplace. Maryland has tried hard to ensure that its citizens are safe from that kind of lunacy. There is absolutely no good reason for anyone to walk around in public with a loaded weapon.

In this respect, no one should ever have someone walk onto their property with a loaded weapon, nor should they expect to see someone with a weapon in a public place. There have been too many people killed to allow this anymore.

Our members applaud the fact that there would be jail time for anyone who carries a weapon onto someone's property or carries one in a public place. We do feel that there should also be monetary damages to more effectively discourage this type of intimidation, and that they should be very steep. It is one thing to put someone in jail for this type of offense, but it takes time and money to ensure that they actually get jail time. Having them also pay a steep fine is another level of deterrence and will help pay for the legal fees of getting them put in jail.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report in committee.