



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

March 29, 2023

To: House Judiciary Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Oppose SB 1 – Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms - Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023)**

On behalf of our Farm Bureau member families in Maryland, I submit this written testimony in opposition of SB 1. This bill prohibits a person from knowingly wearing, carrying, or transporting a firearm onto the real property of another person unless that person has given permission. Even as amended, this bill still prohibits a person from knowingly wearing, carrying, or transporting a firearm within a vast majority of Maryland places of public accommodation. **During Senate floor debate, the bill sponsor said that the bill exempts farmers that sell at farmers' markets that are on government-owned parking lots. However, there is nowhere in the amended version that outlines that exemption, but there is specific language in the bill that restricts wearing in a government or public infrastructure area.**

Making criminals out of law-abiding citizens just trying to protect them and their family is not the answer to trying to reduce violent crimes in Maryland. If anything, this is the exact opposite. This is a pro-criminal bill as this stacks the deck for violent criminals that won't have to worry about the victims, they prey on being armed and only need to worry about the limited police force protecting our streets and neighborhoods.

MDFB Policy: We believe in and support the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which protects the right of the people to keep and bear arms.

We oppose any legislation that would further restrict the purchase and ownership by law-abiding citizens of firearms, handgun, long arm, autoloader, or manual loader.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES SB 1

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Ferguson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396