

I am writing to express my strong support for HB0364. As a licensed and legal firearms owner in Rockville, Maryland, my argument in favor of the Maryland Constitutional Carry Act of 2023 (HB0364) is that it recognizes and upholds the individual's right to bear arms as guaranteed by the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution. I argue that the right to carry a firearm for self-defense is a fundamental right that should not be subject to government discretion or restriction.

Under the act, law-abiding citizens who meet certain eligibility criteria, such as being at least 21 years old and not prohibited from possessing firearms, would be able to carry a handgun without the need for a permit. This would streamline the process for the state of Maryland and reduce the burden on individuals seeking to exercise their right to bear arms.

Advocates of the act also argue that it would enhance public safety by allowing more people to legally carry firearms for self-defense. They argue that the mere presence of armed citizens can deter criminal activity and that trained, armed citizens are often better equipped to respond to dangerous situations than law enforcement officers.

Furthermore, the act would bring Maryland in line with the majority of states that have adopted similar laws and recognize the right of citizens to carry firearms for self-defense. It would also eliminate the need for individuals to obtain a permit and pay associated fees, making it easier and more affordable for law-abiding citizens to exercise their constitutional right to bear arms.

In conclusion, supporters of the Maryland Constitutional Carry Act of 2023 argue that it recognizes and upholds the individual's right to bear arms, enhances public safety, and streamlines the process for law-abiding citizens to exercise their constitutional right to carry firearms for self-defense.

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