

3/27/2023

To the Maryland General Assembly,

I am writing today to urge you to please oppose SB1, which has been dubbed the Gun Safety Act of 2023. Like yourselves, I am a Marylander who holds science and reason to be of paramount importance. This being true, it would be contradictory for anyone who gives credence to statistics and data to support placing restrictions on Wear and Carry permit holders, as this would not do anything to improve gun safety- it would only make things worse. Permit holders are not the people who are perpetrating the gun crime that sadly plagues this state, and therefore they should not be the ones to be penalized. These people are the most law-abiding citizens and have gone through the arduous process of legally obtaining a permit. Furthermore, only they will cease to carry if this legislation passes, while criminals who already disregard the law will continue to carry, thus leaving innocent, law-abiding citizens vulnerable.

On a more personal note, I am an Orthodox Jew who practices daily in a synagogue and wears a Yarmulka as I go about my day. According to the Anti-Defamation League, there has been a 36% increase in antisemitic occurrences nationwide in the United States. Being able to legally carry a firearm means that I have an immediate means of protection between me and someone who wishes to do me or my family harm simply for who we are and the religion we practice.

To conclude, I truly hope you understand my perspective. I hope you understand that I am not alone in this thinking. I would very much like to see the freedom to carry preserved so that Maryland can be a safer place for all its citizens. Please oppose SB1 and every restriction it adds.

Best regards,

David Tabin