

335 Silky Oak Ct  
Linthicum Hts, MD 21090  
March 27, 2023

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 1 (Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms – Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023)

To: House Judiciary Committee

As a US military veteran and Maryland state resident I **oppose** Senate Bill 1 (Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms – Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023).

Today, a Maryland concealed carry firearm permit holder requires a background investigation, fingerprint search, and firearms training. Therefore, Maryland is screening everyone before issuing permits to those who request one. These permits allow individuals to be able to protect themselves and families against unprovoked attacks by others brandishing weapons such as hammers, knives, and guns.

I recall an incident when I was driving my car with a friend to get a hamburger at a fast-food restaurant located in Maryland. When my passenger and I were getting out of my car someone rushed up and put a knife to the throat of my passenger. If a woman in the parking lot wouldn't have yelled "No, that's not him," my friend and I may not be alive today. People and incidents such as these is what law-abiding citizens need to be able to protect themselves from.

I request the Committee take no further action and abandon this bill.

Sincerely,

Charles Watkins

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