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Judiciary Committee



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The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 9, 2026

The Honorable Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett
101 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SPONSOR TESTIMONY- HB1417 Public Safety - Handgun Permit Requirement - Repeal
(Maryland Constitutional Carry Act)

Dear Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

HB1417 repeals the requirement that an individual obtain a state permit to wear, carry, or transport a handgun. The bill eliminates current restrictions on law-abiding citizens carrying firearms and establishes a new penalty for carrying a handgun while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

This legislation upholds the constitutional right of citizens to keep and bear arms. By removing the permit mandate, Maryland joins the many states that recognize the fundamental right of self-defense for responsible adults. The law shifts the focus toward criminal conduct rather than restricting the actions of citizens exercising their constitutional rights.

Repealing these permit requirements honors individual liberty while maintaining common-sense safety standards regarding intoxicated carry. This approach protects the rights of Marylanders to provide for their own security.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report for HB1417 to restore constitutional carry and safeguard the rights of law-abiding citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lauren C. Arikan".

Delegate Lauren C. Arikan