

HB 1417: Public Safety - Handgun Permit Requirement - Repeal (Maryland Constitutional Carry Act): Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **SUPPORT HB 1417** during committee consideration or floor votes.

This bill restores a fundamental right protected by the Second Amendment and affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Bruen* (2022): the right to carry a firearm in public for self-defense without needing government permission or discretionary approval. Maryland’s current permitting system imposes significant costs, delays, training requirements, and subjective “good and substantial reason” standards (even after *Bruen*) that disproportionately burden law-abiding citizens—especially in rural and suburban areas where police response times can be longer and self-defense needs more immediate.

Constitutional carry has been successfully implemented in 29 states with no credible evidence of increased crime or public safety risks. **Law-abiding citizens who pass federal background checks and are legally allowed to own firearms should not be required to obtain government permission to exercise a constitutional right for lawful self-defense.**

HB 1417 maintains strong safeguards—prohibited persons remain barred, open carry restrictions can still apply if locally enacted, and existing laws against brandishing, reckless endangerment, and misuse remain in full force.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote in favor of HB 1417.**

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this critical public safety legislation.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals