

HB1417_RichardKaplowitz_UNF

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Richard Keith Kaplowitz

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TESTIMONY ON HB#1417- POSITION: UNFAVORABLE

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

TO: Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony opposing HB#1417, Public Safety - Handgun Permit Requirement - Repeal (Maryland Constitutional Carry Act)

Britannica discusses *Constitutional Carry of Guns - Should Permitless, "Constitutional Carry" of Guns Be Legal?* ¹

The phrase "constitutional carry" refers to the [Second Amendment's](#) "right to bear arms." It means a resident does not have to obtain a state permit to carry a concealed [weapon](#) in that state. Constitutional carry laws "allow individuals to carry loaded, concealed [handguns](#) in public without first undergoing a background check, obtaining a license, or receiving any firearm training," according to the Center for American Progress. "Concealed carry" means the firearm *must* be out of sight: for example, in a holster under a jacket or in a handbag. [\[1\]](#) Some pro-gun organizations differentiate constitutional carry from "permitless carry," with the latter carrying some restrictions such as no [DUI](#) convictions in the past ten years. However, common use of the phrase "constitutional carry" usually means "permitless carry" and "unrestricted carry" of a concealed firearm. [\[2\]](#)

This bill would roll back the progress Maryland is making against gun violence by asserting that the "well regulated militia" part of the second amendment should be ignored in favor of everyone, with very few exceptions, have access to firearms. It makes all of us unsafe as documented by the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. ² The solutions they suggest to the problems of gun violence do NOT include arming everyone.

This bill would have Maryland repeal the requirement that a person have a certain permit before the person carries, wears, or transports a handgun; repeal certain criminal prohibitions against a person who is at least 21 years old wearing, carrying, or transporting a handgun; and establish that a person may not wear, carry, or transport a handgun while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, with a penalty of imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or both on conviction.

This attempt to give more access to guns to more people must be strongly resisted!

I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on HB#1417.

¹ <https://www.britannica.com/procon/constitutional-carry-of-guns-debate>

² <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/resources/gun-violence-statistics/#:~:text=Gun%20Deaths%20by%20State,have%20higher%20gun%20death%20rates.&text=The%20United%20States%20has%20more%20guns%20than%20people%E2%80%94over%20400%20million.>