

Respectfully submitted by CDR Richard L Jurgena, USN, Ret. in support of HB1502

Maryland law still includes the prohibition to carry a weapon, concealed or otherwise, unless the applicant "...has a good and substantial reason to wear, carry, or transport a handgun, such as finding that the permit is necessary as a reasonable precaution against apprehended danger....".

This law is racist. It was used immediately after the Civil War by plantation owners to keep firearms out of the hands of newly emancipated slaves. And it is still used in Maryland to deprive Hispanics, African Americans and the poor law-abiding citizens of Maryland the right of self-defense.

The State Police interpret the law to mean there is no reason to carry a firearm unless the applicant can prove they have been either assaulted physically or threatened with assault. Why should any law-abiding citizen have to wait to be threatened with assault before they are allowed exercise a Right, to defend their life, liberty and their pursuit of happiness protected by the US Constitution?

In McDonald vs. Chicago, Ill and Wrenn vs. Washington, DC the courts have shown that this law is unconstitutional and were only overturned on technicalities. In the year after McDonald vs. Chicago, IL, 100,000 carry permits were issued in Illinois. There has not been a single instance of an individual, who was issued one of those permits committing a felony with a handgun.

This bill gives our "good guys and gals" a fighting chance when they are called out to protect us while not requiring any of them to carry. The fact some may be carrying and able to defend themselves and others, with deadly force, moves them out of the soft target category.

I respectfully urge your favorable endorsement of this bill.

Respectfully,

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