



Maryland
Hospital Association

**Senate Bill 1- Criminal Law- Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms- Restrictions
(Gun Safety Act of 2023)**

Position: *Support*

February 7, 2023

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 1.

We applaud the swift action the General Assembly is taking to clarify Maryland law around where individuals may be prohibited from carrying a firearm after the Supreme Court decision in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association Inc v. Bruen*. We support the sponsor amendment to include hospital and other health care facilities as sensitive locations, where firearms should not be carried by the general public.

Hospitals and health care facilities are places of health and healing; however, far too often violence outside the walls can seep inside. Hospitals do everything possible to protect health care workers from harm. Yet, in 2020, nursing and personal care facility workers were injured from assaults and violent acts at a rate of [21.8 per 10,000 full time workers](#). The increasing threat of workplace violence has driven dedicated professionals out of the field, deepening the workforce crisis.

Further, hospitals can be emotionally charged places. Families and patients are dealing with pain and grief. Patients, families, and health care practitioners should have the expectation that the facility is firearm free.

For more information, please contact:

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