

## Written Testimony of Jesse Ferguson, resident of Caroline County, Maryland, in Support of SB 0198

I am a hard-working husband, father of two young girls, and a native of Maryland's Eastern Shore. I currently possess two non-resident permits (Utah and New Hampshire) that allow me to carry a concealed handgun in 30 states. Ironically, I cannot carry in Maryland, the state where I reside, due to the fact that "personal protection" or "self-defense" do not currently qualify as a "good and substantial" reason to be issued a Maryland wear and carry permit. I completely support SB 0198 which would rectify this flaw in Maryland's current permitting process.

Despite the idyllic location, the town where I live, and surrounding area, is not immune to the same issues that plague larger population centers in the state. There have been violent crimes, from murders to robberies, both within the town and in the area surrounding it. For example, less than five years ago a man was shot and killed on our main street. Recently there was a robbery where attackers used a machete, in an area near the town.

As a father and the primary income source for my family, I take my own protection, and the protection of my family, very seriously. It is this earnest desire to protect myself, wife, and children that has led me to attend numerous training courses focused on personal protection and self-defense.

Please help to give the law-abiding citizens of Maryland the tools they need to protect themselves and their families. Please support SB 0198.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ferguson

jessebferguson@gmail.com