

## Written Testimony

**Support: Senate Bill 198**

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JoeyLynn Hough  
2 Rick Michael Way  
Brunswick, MD 21758

I'm the wife of a prominent State Senator.

I'm arbitrarily approached when I'm in public and sometimes confronted by someone who is disgruntled over things I have no control over.

I have received two death threats and I have been the victim of a stalker.

Due to the threats not meeting the legal threshold I was not afforded the opportunity to protect myself and my family. It didn't make the threats any less real for me. I felt vulnerable and powerless. In order to protect myself and my family I have taken many steps to take back my power.

I have taken a ten hour Hunter Safety Certification class with my children, I have completed an extensive training to become a certified shotgun instructor, I have spent numerous days and hours assistant coaching in State and National youth shooting competitions, navigated through all the trainings, cost and expenses to obtain my Hand Gun Qualification License, which was a sixteen hour class. Despite all my efforts, I'm still not legally afforded the same self-protection as a current concealed carry permit holder.

The state of Maryland sent me a letter stating that I have no criminal record and yet I still can't protect myself or my kids according to the stringent gun laws here in Maryland.

I have lived in North Dakota and Wyoming, which are both Right to Carry states, and I have never had to worry about my personal safety or for my family. I would like the same opportunity to protect myself and my children that is afforded to any other concealed carry permit holder.

My situation is only one of many here in Maryland. Please vote "Yes" on SB 198, to help empower not only women, but many others to protect themselves and their families.

Thank you for your time. Are there any questions?

Respectfully,



JoeyLynn Hough  
240-315-6229  
Joeylynnh@comcast.net