

## **Written Testimony**

### **Support: Senate Bill 198**

**January 30, 2020**

**Charles Farmer  
P.O. Box 1404  
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**Thank you for allowing me a chance to voice my concerns about the Senate bill listed above and the proposed legislation.**

**This is a critical issue to my family, our community in Frederick County, our State here in Maryland and our Country.**

**My name is Charles Farmer. I'm a single father raising two children and have raised one other who became a Police Officer in Frederick City. Two of my children attended the same Elementary school that I did at their age in Frederick County and many things are very different today. I try to instill in them to appreciate how precious our rights are as citizens and the importance of protecting those rights when threatened. This Legislation if passed will help ensure their safety as we go about our daily lives and activities.**

**My oldest son is now 24 years old, works full time, operates his own businesses and has a career in Law Enforcement. My now 16 year old daughter is a member of the Sheriff's Office Explorer's Post 1218, participates in the 4-H Frederick County Shooting Sports Program and is also pursuing education in Law Enforcement. My youngest is 14 and has many hobbies including music lessons, hunting and fencing. All of my children routinely practice responsibility with the use firearms, understand the importance of them and the safety of firearms use.**

**I am a retired Inspector from the Maryland State Police and have enjoyed trying to make a difference during my state employment, but would not trade the time with my children now for anything.**

**During my career and employment with the State as an Inspector, part of my duties were to enforce many various State and Federal laws. These duties included writing large citations or taking legal action to sometimes disgruntled or even bitter members of the public.**

**I worked side by side and received much of the same training courses with State and Federal law enforcement officers, yet my position was considered “Limited Law Enforcement” since we were not “commissioned” to carry a firearm. Many other States did and still do arm their Inspectors. To offset any possible “danger” as part of our uniform, we were issued bullet proof vests, pepper spray, trained in the use of the spray and had self-defense pressure point training. This was somewhat of an inside joke to us as we felt like the “obvious target” should things go wrong.**

**Despite the risks we mitigated on a daily basis, I feel more vulnerable today in the general public than I ever did on the job. We constantly witness the lack of basic self and personal respect for others that simply many times spiral into crimes- crimes that can be easily stopped or prevented. My experience has taught me that most of the time the mere presence of a firearm or the possibility of overwhelming force are enough to de-escalate a situation or prevent a crime from happening.**

**Frederick County is one of many areas across the State that constantly feels the increasing effects of the crime rate that spills over from Baltimore and other areas. Things are drastically different and criminals are more confident now than when I grew up in MD.**

**Just recently I learned that the special Task Force to stop the theft of utility vehicles and motorcycles, failed to catch some very bold perpetrators when they were followed from the scene in Frederick to Baltimore to where the “chase” had to discontinue. The “smash and grab” thugs went to great & desperate lengths to smash into our local motorcycle shop(s) and steal in excess of \$1,000,000 in motorcycles. I wouldn’t want my family members or any other citizen to be in the “wrong place at the wrong time” or confronted with this or any other type of criminal intent without the opportunity to protect themselves.**

**I have had extensive training to become a certified firearms Instructor and routinely train and coach youth in local, state and national shooting competitions. I had training to be a certified firearms armorer. I have been a Hunters Safety Instructor for many years, have been licensed as a Federal Firearms dealer and currently hold a Maryland Handgun Qualification License. I have had extensive background checks to include even a clearance to work at the White House. I have completed training and possess a Utah Concealed Carry Permit that despite being accepted and recognized in about 38 States, is not accepted in Maryland- the very State that I have lived in my whole life!?**

**My son can legally carry due to his law enforcement position, but it does not extend to members of his family. My family and I have been victims of various threatening and retaliatory actions, but the situations have not meet the current legal threshold to obtain a carry permit. The threats and continuing possibility of threats is still very real for me and my family.**

**My aging parents like to visit and my father has health issues to where he couldn't defend himself or others should the need arise. He obtained a firearm carry permit from his home State, but it is not recognized here in Maryland- the very State that he spent most of his life raising his family.**

**We and many Marylanders feel vulnerable and want the legal right to protect ourselves should the need arise. Senate Bill 198 is an easy and thoughtful fix for everyone. The right to self-defense with a carry permit will have a huge positive effect on the crime rate since law abiding citizens will be able to thwart many crimes before simply becoming a victim. The law will also be a deterrent for criminals to consider before acting on an illegal deed.**

**I believe this Legislation would have a positive impact on the safety of all of our citizens, families and youth.**

**Please vote YES for Senate Bill 198.**

**Thank You,**

  
**Charles Farmer**