

Written Testimony of Katie Novotny in support of SB221

29 January 2021

I am a member of Multiple Gun Rights organizations. Maryland Shall Issue, Associated Gun Clubs, Maryland State Rifle and Pistol Association, and the National Rifle Association. I am a certified Range Safety Officer with the NRA. I compete in multiple shooting events such as Steel Challenge, 3-gun, small bore, and vintage military rifle matches. I am an avid firearms collector. I support SB221.

This bill makes good sense. The statute referenced does not contain the requirement that an applicant fire one round during training. The Maryland State Police adding additional provisions to a bill should be alarming to all citizens. What prevents them from adding additional requirements to any number of laws simply because they wish to? That is not how our government works.

Furthermore, the requirement is discriminatory. There are no ranges located within Baltimore City, and various other areas. This requirement means that a HQL class must be held at a range or other place where discharging a firearm is legal, during a time of day where it is legal. This greatly increases the price of a class, and limits where they can be held, and at what time, making them inaccessible to some people because of cost, distance, time, or all. If the firing requirement were struck down, classes could be held nearly anywhere that was convenient for people who wish to be educated about firearms. If the purpose of FSA2013 was safety, having as many people trained in basic firearm safety should be the goal, which means classes should be accessible to as many people as is possible.

Because of these reasons above, I request a favorable report.

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