



**Testimony in Opposition of Handgun Qualification License -
Firearms Safety Training
SB 221**

**Karen Herren, JD, Director of Legislative Affairs
Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence**

February 2, 2021

Dear Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence is a statewide grassroots organization dedicated to reducing gun deaths and injuries throughout the state of Maryland, with a particular focus on reducing urban gun violence and gun suicide. Our work ranges from addressing data-driven legislative change, leading a violence intervention and prevention coalition, and running programs for at-risk children. Our mission is to work toward ending the cycles of violence that plague our state. We do not support any attempts to weaken the safety training requirement of Maryland's Handgun Qualification License. **We urge the committee to vote UNFAVORABLY on Senate Bill 221 which seeks to eliminate the firearms orientation component of training that seeks to ensure a person's safe operation and handling of a firearm.**