

SB0027 Public Safety - Permit to Carry, Wear, or Transport a Handgun – Qualifications

Stance: Oppose

Testimony: My name is Adiena C. Britt and I reside in the 45th Legislative District of Baltimore City. I am writing to offer my Opposition to SB0027 which allows for an applicant to merely state “personal protection” or “self-defense” as a reason to be offered a permit to wear, carry, or transport a handgun. This legislation seems like it is flirting with the option of eventually turning into a “Stand your ground” law, which are proven problematic and dangerous. It also seems that this stipulation is at least partially based on a level of fear, and having a fearful person carrying around a loaded weapon is dangerous. It leaves opportunities open to bias and that individual’s interpretation of what a perceived threat is. I will bring up Trayvon Martin, and the countless other young African-American men who have been murdered by civilians under the guise of “Self-Defense” or someone “fearing for their lives” or trying to “Stand their ground”.

This also opens the door for such individuals to feel they have the right to carry their weapon wherever they go, so it inevitably leads to carry it across state borders into other jurisdictions. To airports, government buildings, grocery stores, malls, doctor’s offices. Then we’re all left with the potentiality that if such an individual also carries around a bias, or is in an altered mental state from an interaction or transaction, that they could perceive that as a “threat” and use their weapon as a means of problem solving, and that’s just dangerous. We already have Andy Harris running around the halls of Congress abusing this power, we don’t need it to escalate to all of our citizens being able to carry firearms on them for “protection” when we don’t know what they perceive as an actual “threat”. Please strike this horrible idea down, and don’t allow this to pass through this committee. This would open the door for so many potential issues, it just isn’t worth the risk.

Thank you.

Adiena C. Britt

6014 Old Harford Rd.

Baltimore, MD 21214

