

Judicial Proceedings Committee
Noah Sann
February 2nd, 2021
Testimony in support for SB27

Members of the committee,

I am a 20-year-old student residing in Baltimore City urging a favorable report of SB27. There are three main reasons I believe this bill should be passed.

The passing of this bill would enable people to defend themselves from violent crime. Being able to carry a handgun would allow for women to defend themselves against larger male attackers. It would enable an older man to protect himself from an attack despite not having the strength to fight back or run away. People who are handicapped or have physical disabilities would be able to stand a chance in protecting their lives as well. I myself have a history of brain injuries that hinder my ability to run and fight. Carrying a handgun for personal protection would enable me to defend myself when faced with a threat that could further injure my brain. Everyone in the state of Maryland deserves to be allowed to protect and preserve their lives when faced with threats that could end them or cause severe injuries.

As individuals, we all have the responsibility for our own safety and need to have the means to protect ourselves. The police cannot be everywhere they are needed at a moment's notice. I personally have seen people in my community get assaulted and threatened with weapons while waiting for dispatched police to come rescue them from an attacker. I saw a man get shot and killed before he even had the chance to dial 911. At the end of the day, we all need to be allowed to have the means to protect ourselves because depending on someone else to do it for us is not a reliable solution.

Restricting ordinary people's ability to protect themselves does not reduce crime in Maryland. A person who wants to commit a violent crime with a firearm does not need a permit to do this. This is very evident all over our state and especially in my community of Baltimore City. Although a small number of permits are given out to the public, there are large numbers of murders and shootings by people who do not have concealed carry permits. People who get concealed carry permits seek to legally and morally defend themselves with a firearm if that need came about. They are subject to background checks and training to ensure that they can carry responsibly and are of good standing to do so. Restricting people's ability to protect themselves does not reduce crime in Maryland, it only renders the average person defenseless when violent crime does occur.

The unfortunate truth is that some people in Maryland will encounter deadly threats in our society, and it's only right for all of us to be able to protect ourselves from them. The passing of this bill would have Maryland join the majority of the country in allowing it's citizens to carry concealed handguns for self-defense. States like Illinois, Utah, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and even D.C. issue permits for the reason of self-defense. This works all over our country and it will work in Maryland as well. I urge the committee to issue a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Noah Sann

noahmsann@gmail.com

443-631-6151

