

*Written Testimony of Katie Novotny in support of SB309*

15 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 SB 309.

This bill makes good sense. It is not reducing the amount of training required by a person who will receive a wear and carry permit. It is simply allowing them to not spend the significant amount of money required to attend the training, unless they are approved to receive a permit. In my research, the initial training generally runs between \$300 and \$600. This is a significant outlay for someone who is unsure if they will be approved by the "good and substantial reason" requirement.

The ongoing pandemic has also made it much more difficult for people to access training. Class sizes are limited due to social distancing, ranges have often been closed or have capacity limits, and people whose jobs have been closed have struggled financially.

This committee, and the entire Senate have passed this bill in the past. Please take favorable action so that this process may be changed for the better.

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

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