



February 15, 2022

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF Michael Burke, MSI member,
IN SUPPORT OF SB 456**

I am a Member of Maryland Shall Issue (“MSI”). Maryland Shall Issue is a Section 501(c)(4), all-volunteer, non-partisan organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of gun owners’ rights in Maryland. My associates and I seek to educate the community, including the Maryland General Assembly, about the right of self-protection, the safe handling of firearms, and the responsibility that goes with possessing and/or carrying a firearm in public.

My background includes over 30 years of military service with the US Army and Maryland National Guard as a Military Police officer, Drill Instructor, and Counterintelligence Agent; over 20 years as a Criminal Investigator/Special Agent with numerous Federal law enforcement agencies. I am an expert in Maryland firearms law, federal firearms law and the law of self-defense. I am also a Maryland State Police certified handgun instructor for the Maryland Wear and Carry Permit and the Maryland Handgun Qualification License (“HQL”) and a certified NRA pistol instructor. I appear today as a voter and member of numerous other 2nd Amendment advocacy organizations in SUPPORT of **SB 533**.

As a Maryland Certified Handgun Instructor, I can unequivocally state that the current requirement to “fire one round” is both meaningless and ineffectual in training a citizen for the mere purchase of a regulated firearm (handgun).

It is blatantly discriminatory, in that it is IMPOSSIBLE for a resident of Baltimore City (**Black or African American: 62.35% White: 30.46% Asian: 2.58% Two or more races: 2.49%**) to obtain training for the Handgun Qualification License anywhere inside the Baltimore Beltway. There is absolutely NO firearms range available – not even Baltimore City law enforcement officers, deputy Sheriffs, or Corrections Officers- can conduct live fire training without leaving the jurisdiction.

The “single shot” requirement, arbitrarily picked and implemented by the State Police is unlawful and in direct contradiction of the language of the Firearms Safety Act of 2013 that instituted the HQL requirement.

End this racist and absurd obstacle to the freedom of Maryland (especially men and women of Color) to keep and bear arms in their own homes and places of business.