



## The Maryland House of Delegates

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 28, 2022

### Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1288- Public Safety - Handgun Permit Application Fee - Waiver for Disabled Residents

Good afternoon colleagues,

Today I present to you a simple piece of legislation on behalf of a constituent who is disabled.

HB 1288 simply waives the cost for a disabled resident to apply for a handgun permit issued by the State to carry, wear, or to transport a handgun.

A Bureau of Justice Statistics Publication, *Crime against Persons with Disabilities*, Published in November 2021 states that from 2017 to 2019

- Persons with disabilities were victims of 26% of all nonfatal violent crime, while accounting for about 12% of the population.
- The rate of violent victimization against persons with disabilities was almost four times the rate for persons without disabilities (12.3 per 1,000).
- One in three robbery victims (33%) had at least one disability.
- Nineteen percent of rapes or sexual assaults against persons with disabilities were reported to police, compared to 36% of those against persons without disabilities.

I think we can all agree that protecting folks who are more susceptible to violence is extremely important. Waiving the fee will decrease the financial burden on our constituents in this venerable population. They will still need to pass all background checks and apply for a handgun permit. This legislation simply waives the fee associated with the obtaining the wear and carry permit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lauren Arikan".

Delegate Lauren Arikan