

To members of the Maryland House:

My name is Elijah Ballard and I am writing to express my support for HB 787 as a way to help expand opportunities for me to bring in supplemental income in Maryland.

I'm enrolled at the University of Maryland and when the pandemic hit, I had to find ways to earn some extra income. I started making deliveries with DoorDash and found it to be a great way to juggle earning with attending classes and keeping up with my coursework. Becoming a Dasher was incredibly easy and has allowed me to keep healthy study habits while also making a good amount of money.

While I love delivering from local restaurants around College Park and other parts of Maryland, I have seen that fulfilling orders from liquor stores in Washington D.C. and Virginia has actually been a great way to make even more money while I'm dashing. I keep an eye out for orders from these locations because I know that they often pay even better than food deliveries. This gives me meaningful additional income to help cover expenses like books and other supplies for my classes.

It would be great to have the same opportunities to make these deliveries here in Maryland. Dashing takes me across Maryland, and even across state lines, but because of the local laws I'm not able to complete any of the same kinds of deliveries from liquor stores here. Passing HB 787 would simply make it easier for Dashers like me to do the same work I'm already doing just a few miles away.

In my experience, delivering alcohol through DoorDash is also really safe. The Dasher app always alerts me that an order contains alcohol, and provides straightforward guidance on scanning the customer's ID at the door, which I can do easily through the app by taking a photo of the ID.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope you will keep my support in mind as you consider this important issue.

Sincerely,

Elijah Ballard
College Park, MD