



I respectfully request you vote to OPPOSE on my behalf on bill SB113 / HB259 . My name is Michelle Klein, and I am a mom, woman of color small business owner, mom, licensed instructor who volunteers, and a woman's shooting chapter co-leader in Maryland. I am writing to you today through the lens of all these, but especially as a woman of color business owner.

With utmost respect I do understand the issue of crime in our state. No one should ever have to live in fear of their life with nothing to protect themselves with. Please, support the abused and victimized by allowing them to protect their lives. Please, vote yes on this bill so that these women I know and love, the millions we will never meet, will never be hurt again! Their stories are below.

Unfortunately, women are often targets of violent crime by strangers, but also by those we love and trust. Our status, culture of acceptance are taken advantage of. Women are abused slowly and over time so that their psyche is permanently altered. They come to believe, by way of the abuser, that there's no one out there to help. They are told that they should be ashamed for what has happened, and that they deserved it. Then, when a women is able to get the resources she needs to break free, she is often further abused and in some cases - murdered. How many lost women have we seen on the news over the last 10 years?

Unfortunately, this bill will do nothing to stop this. Will we enact a law to sue Cutco because they make knives? Will we enact a law to sue automobile manufacturers because they made cars that someone used against an innocent? This is legislation that will do nothing to prevent the next crime but do everything to harm women like me. For example, did you know that anywhere between 60,000 to 2.5 million lives are saved every year by citizens that use a firearm in a defensive situation? Much like I might have had to do that horrible day when my family was threatened. That data comes from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention; that data was obtained by studies from the CDC's scientists themselves; a source we are told to trust.

With utmost respect I urge you, oppose this bill on behalf of women like me.

Thank you so very much for your time!