

Good afternoon,

First I would like to thank the members of this committee for their service to the state of Maryland.

My name is Timothy Otwell, I am a retired law enforcement officer from the state of Maryland. During my time of service, I served as road patrol, road supervisor and shift supervisor, additionally I served in the division of homeland security and intelligence at the Maryland Terrorist watch center where I was a shift supervisor and performed duties as the acting assistant commander during my tenure. Furthermore, I served in the gang intelligence unit providing training for civilians and law enforcement throughout the state on gang trends and activities.

I was born and raised in the city of Baltimore and Northern Anne Arundel County where I lived up until retirement. As a former law enforcement officer, and resident who spent most of his life in and around Baltimore, and someone who has a vast and intimate knowledge of gun violence and crime, I can say with certainty that this bill would do nothing to stop or curb gun violence. The notion that preventing a law abiding citizen who would lawfully purchase, receive required training, and complete all background checks, from concealed carrying in a public place will reduce gun violence is simply not accurate. Violent criminals already violate the law with unlawful purchase, unlawful possession, unlawful use and unlawfully carrying of firearms. Drawing from both professional and personal experiences, the concept that an additional law, rather than harsher punishment on current violations is doomed to be ineffective legislation which will not achieve any real effects on violent crime in the state of Maryland.