

I



respectfully request you vote to **oppose** on my behalf on bill SB0001. My name is Michelle Klein, and I am a mom, woman of color, small business owner, licensed pistol 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 small business owner**.

Many years ago I applied for a concealed carry permit through Maryland State Police so that I could conceal carry while doing business. I stand only 5 foot 3 inches, am middle aged and a woman of color in an.... Interesting time. You see, I once called 911 and had to wait 20 minutes for assistance. 20 very long, scary and dangerous minutes. I vowed after that to learn all I could so that I could protect my life should I ever need to wait long and scary minutes again. With all respect, no mom, no woman should sit in fear for their lives waiting for help.

You see, every item in this bill will prohibit my ability to utilize the permit my state has thought, for years, was perfectly fine considering my background check, references and training requirements. This bill puts my life at risk. My life - mom, woman of color, small business owner - me - the woman in this picture. This person!

It scares me to my core to think that my ability to protect my life and spouse while doing business is in jeopardy. Please, take a good hard look at my picture here. Please know that there are thousands of women just like me who please with you to not take our ability to protect our lives away from us.

On behalf of those of us who own business, treat all around us with kindness and grace, but never again want to wait in fear... I beg you to oppose these bills.