

Written testimony of Rashonda Stansbury-Beck in opposition of SB0001 and SB0118

My name is Rashonda Stansbury-Beck, born and raised in Annapolis, Md in the Broadneck Peninsula. I'm a God fearing, married mother of five. I spend my days homeschooling three of my children, and my evenings tutoring other children in the county. I'm a member of the Annapolis Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., and spend countless hours serving our community. I'm also a member of the Annapolis Chapter of NAAGA, the National African American Gun Association.

In addition to all of that and so much more, I'm a law-abiding citizen who has gone through the proper background check, fingerprinting process and training to obtain a legal carry license in Maryland and Pennsylvania. I continue to physically train and educate myself as well as my children about firearm safety. My husband works out of town and the majority of my days and nights are spent alone with our children. Seven days a week, we are traveling around Maryland whether it be errands or even more so dropping off and picking up my children for all of their sports and community involvements. Day in and day out, our immediate protection starts with me. If we are ever faced with danger, I am the first responder while we wait for the police to arrive. It is up to me to make sure my family feels safe. It is up to you to make sure that I am able to feel safe. Making it impossible to carry my tool on my person wherever I go, is the exact way you would make this tax paying, law abiding citizen feel unsafe. Passing these bills would make the law-abiding citizens the criminals simply because we want to be safe and have the means to protect ourselves and our families. Unfortunately, the criminals that are out every day to harm the good citizens of Maryland will still be carrying their illegal firearms regardless if this bill is passed. Those criminals would love for this bill to pass, as they would know their target cannot protect themselves and allow them to easily carry out their crime.

Almost everywhere one travels, they would be within 100 feet of the restricted place of public accommodation. Thus, making the law-abiding citizen a criminal. Having to obtain permission to conceal and/or carry their legal firearm on private property completely defeats the purpose of being able to wear and carry. Anyone for these bills should be ashamed of themselves for trying to find a way to go against the Constitution. Adding the proposed additional restrictions on us responsible gun owners would only jeopardize our Constitutional Right to bear arms and the ability to defend ourselves. It only penalizes the citizens who have been following the law. Disarming me will not protect me and my family.

I am against SB0001 and SB0118 as they both would hinder my ability to feel safe, to defend myself and my family. I strongly urge the committee to vote against SB0001 and SB0118.

Respectfully,

Rashonda Stansbury-Beck
161 Browns Woods Rd
Annapolis, MD 21409