

My name is Esther Rossberg and I would like to voice my opposition to Senate Bill 0001 (SB0001). As a 65 year old widow living in Baltimore City, whose daughter was robbed at gunpoint around the corner from my home and whose next door neighbor was robbed at gunpoint on my block, I am frightened for my safety. I am not capable of physically fighting off someone who wants to do me harm.

I am also a Maryland State Police certified firearms instructor and I teach women exclusively. My students include single Moms and older women who work evening shifts and have to walk to their cars alone at night. My students are frightened. They want to be able to defend themselves if necessary.

I serve on the Security Committee of my synagogue. Weekly we see alerts from all over the country about threats of violence to houses of worship, and firebomb attacks (NJ), someone entering a synagogue and opening fire on the people there (CA). Lay members need to be able to carry in houses of worship to defend ourselves.

None of my students, or the students of my fellow instructors are the "bad guys". We teach gun safety and appropriate use of force. We just want to be safe.

Please kill this bill.

Thank you.