

SB001 – UNF

I am requesting an UNFAVORABLE report on SB001 by the House Judiciary Committee.

My name is Esther Rossberg and I am a resident of Baltimore City.

Every week or so I get an alert about a potential threat to the Jewish community.

It is impossible to ignore that anti-Semitism is rising and that Jews are vulnerable.

I am a member of my synagogue's security committee. We are too small to hire a security guard but just as vulnerable as larger institutions. All too recently, Jews in synagogues were targeted, held hostage, injured, some died in Poway, CA, Pittsburgh, PA and Colleyville, TX. A machete-wielding attacker stabbed five people at a religious celebration in Monsey, NY. Just last month, a national "day of hate" was announced by antisemitic groups, to be held on the Sabbath.

When I legally carry a firearm to and from the synagogue on the Sabbath, religious holidays, and while attending other religious activities at other Jewish institutions, I cross and enter many of the locations that will be prohibited if SB1 becomes law.

I shop at kosher supermarkets and other Jewish places of business. In Jersey City, NJ, there was a shooting at a kosher supermarket.

I am often "on call" to pick up children from Jewish preschools and private schools, or from Little League games or summer camp facilities, not always from home.

I eat at kosher restaurants that have liquor licenses.

I attend ball games and concerts.

If SB1 becomes law I will not be able to leave my home with my firearm, despite all the training and application for my wear and carry permit, because I will never know when I might be entering, traversing or otherwise running afoul of this draconian law.

All of this is in addition to living in Baltimore City, in the Jewish community, where crime is rampant, muggings and carjackings occur frequently (both my daughter and my neighbor were mugged at gunpoint close to home), and the police are depleted.

As a certified firearms instructor (NRA and USCCA) and a certified Range Safety Officer (NRA and USCCA) and a member of several organizations for license holders in Maryland, I know beyond the shadow of a doubt that my colleagues, friends and fellow licensed carry citizens are well trained, safe, and make YOU and your FAMILY safer wherever they carry.

Do I wish the world was different, as Senator Waldstreicher wishes? All unicorns and rainbows? Of course. But it isn't. And until it is, I value my 2nd Amendment right to defend myself. Because in April of 1933 the Jews of Breslau, Poland, were disarmed by the police (NY Times archives) and we know what happened to them. It should never happen again.

Respectfully,

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