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I am a registered voter from Washington County Maryland. I am a certified firearms instructor, I am a wife and mother who strongly opposes Senate Bill 1. I am in opposition to this bill because it takes away my ability to protect myself and my children along with the rights of other Maryland Wear & Carry Permit holders. This bill strips the rights of the law-abiding citizens in the state of Maryland who have complied with the extensive training requirements and have legally obtained their wear and carry permits. This bill will take away their right to carry in any place other than their home, which will essentially prevent them from being able to protect themselves or their children.

Having a firearm for self-protection is a great equalizer for women. This allows them to protect themselves and not be a victim. Women are the fastest growing demographic in new firearm ownership, making up 3.5 million new firearm owners from 2019 to 2021. This surge in new female firearm ownership is due to the increase in fear of targeted violence, crime and lack of law enforcement and their desire to feel safe when they are in public.

I help train women in our group in the fundamentals of firearm use and firearm safety to give them the knowledge and education to be able to carry and protect themselves and those around them. Having the ability to legally carry their firearm makes them feel safe and secure in knowing that should the situation arise they are able to stop the threat and keep those around them safe.

This bill will penalize law abiding citizens for legally carrying their firearms for self-protection, while criminals will continue to not abide the laws currently in place. By limiting where law abiding citizens can legally carry their firearms, you are restricting their right to feel safe and secure while in turn giving all rights to the criminals who do not abide by the laws.

Thank you for your time,

Christina Price