

SB 1 Oppose Senate District 7A

Good Afternoon Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members. Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

I am opposed to this bill for many reasons, most of which you have probably already heard here today. However, his bill will affect me directly and will infringe my ability to defend myself and others as I strive to support my family.

I am in possession of a MD issued Wear and Carry Permit as well as an HQL. I am also a Certified Range Safety Officer through both the NRA and USCCA as well as an NRA Certified Refuse to be a Victim Instructor. Along with those qualifications I also hold A Maryland Notary Public Commission and am a Maryland licensed Realtor. I am currently employed as a bookkeeper for a Law Firm centrally located in Baltimore City.

As a part of my duties for all of the above endeavors, it is expected that I be able to meet clients or customers in various locations throughout the state of Maryland, including the distressed areas for the purpose of distributing funds, collect signatures, show houses and for other various reasons. Even though most of the time I am able to vet potential clients I am not always able to vet their associates.

My reasons for opposing this bill besides the obvious infringement on the 2nd Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, which states this right shall not be infringed, as well as Article 44 of the Maryland declaration of Rights, is that if this bill became law it would prevent me from being able to defend myself and others. If a threat should arise, while meeting folks I have never met before at their place of residence, offices, restaurants etc. It would also prevent me from being able to stop at a gas station to refill my tank while on a trip to view properties for sale with clients or to meet clients at an open house without putting myself in potential danger from a potential unknown threat.

I have had multiple experiences that made me realize that I could be a victim of a crime anywhere at any time, even when there is a police officer within a few feet of me, I might still end up in danger.

My first experience happened In May of 1982. I was not yet 18 years old and was working as a deli clerk at White Marsh Deli. My coworker and I had been in the kitchen cleaning up for the night when a young man came in to "purchase a soda" at 10pm (we closed at 11pm). I made him his drink and walked to the register where he pulled out a Colt 45 revolver and pointed it at my sternum. He demanded I give him the money in the register. I gave it to him then he said "Do not call the police for 5 minutes or I will come back and kill you and the girl in the kitchen." Then he left with the money and without the drink. I immediately locked the door then called the police, I then alerted my coworker who had been in the kitchen washing dishes and did not know what had occurred. The perpetrator was never arrested.

In April of 2013 I had a client who happened to be a Baltimore County Police Officer who had previously been employed by Baltimore City and where he had worked as an undercover narcotics officer. He wanted to look at properties that had potential for rehabilitation, so we were looking at homes in the distressed sections of Baltimore City and County. One of the properties happened to be located across the street from a residence where he noticed an individual that he had previously arrested. Not knowing this, I pulled up to the property, exited my vehicle,

walked to the door and proceeded to unlock the door of the home we had an appointment to view. My client pulled up behind me but did not exit his vehicle. He called me and told me to get back into my car because it was not safe for us to view the property. Luckily, I made it back to my vehicle safely before the individual became aware of my client and we were able to leave the area before he was recognized. My client told me at the next property that the individual had made threats against him at the time of his arrest. Had he not seen this individual first, this situation might have ended very differently.

I have had other experiences but will save them for another time. Because violent crime happens everywhere, and I want to be able to defend myself, I am opposed to this bill and ask you to respond with an unfavorable report. Thank you for reading my testimony.

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