

March 27th 2023

My name is Nicole Hardy and I reside at 16407 National Pike Hagerstown MD 21740. I can be reached anytime at [301.331.8048](tel:301.331.8048).

I am opposed of the passing of this bill SB1.

Not only is it my constitutional right to carry a fire arm but I believe it is also my duty. I am a wife, mom and grandmother and this world has gone a little crazy. The passing of this bill would be a punch in the belly to All law abiding citizens. It is not us who are committing horrific crimes and going on mass shooting sprees throughout the country. Based on current MD laws and regulations there is a lot that is already being done proactively to ensure that those whom choose to carry in our state, do so in a way with knowledge and training. I do believe these measures are pertinent to ensure that those carrying do so in a safe way. However to say “I can’t carry anywhere” goes against everything our constitution stands for.

There is so much talk about “feeling safe”. I don’t want a false sense of security. I want to know that if I am attacked or my kids or grandkids that I have the ability to protect us all by whatever means necessary. I should not be forced to feel safe when I can in fact “Be Safe”. I should have the right to protect myself. I do not want to ever be a victim!

I am also an insurance broker whom works alone on most days and am required to meet with both Men and Women in various places. I have been put in vicarious situations where I truly felt my safety was in jeopardy. I originally began carrying to protect myself when I’m out and about just trying to make an honest living wage for my family. Please I beg of you to not take my right away to protect myself.

Many of those whom are for this bill, do not understand the process that goes into to getting these approved licenses and permits. MD already has a very high standard. 2+ years ago I may have been on the other side of this bill. When the pandemic hit and the world became a little extra violent, I was terrified to be alone when in public. I decided in those moments to not live in fear and not be a victim. So I proactively decided to educate my self on all things firearms and safety. I now am an instructor with the NRA and it all started by taking those first steps. Learning basics like how to handle, load, unload, shoot, store etc. could be the difference for many who are for this bill to change their minds as it has done for me. Education is key.

Thank you for hearing me today. Please do not take away my rights to protect myself.

Warmest Regards,

Nicole Hardy