

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and members of this esteemed committee.

My name is Chaplain Denise Reid. I reside in beautiful Baltimore City, Maryland. Senator Antonio Hayes is my State Senator in District 40.

I'm honored to be a volunteer since 2016 and Survivor Membership Co-Lead since 2018 with the Maryland Chapter of Moms Demand Action.

Truly, I'm a resilient and courageous survivor of heinous gun atrocities.

Today, I implore passionately and resolutely for a favorable report for Senate Bill 488.

I and my family have felt firsthand, the results of the gun industry's deadly and irresponsible practices. The gun industry has the information and tools to innovate and take action to prevent gun trafficking, but PLCAA has eliminated legal incentives for that industry to make firearms safer or to engage in responsible sales practices.

With tears in my eyes, my beloved family has been traumatized by senseless gun violence for well over 50 years.

Over six (6) loved ones were killed, including my uncle Jerome before I was born in 1964.

In the early to mid 1980's gun violence struck and severed our family chain. My 16 year old cousin, my 23 year old uncle and my 2 little cousins' mothers were all shot in the head.

On October 18, 2006 my heart was shattered. I received a heart wrenching call that my only and precious son Tavon was shot. That dreaded bullet pierced his spine, my baby was paralyzed from the neck down. After fighting 2 1/2 years just to breathe, God called Tavon to heaven, April 1, 2009.

October 2020 my phone rang. My brother David was on the line. He said, frantically, that his oldest son, my nephew David, was killed. My heart dropped. Two days later my heart was ripped in pain. Someone killed the girlfriend of David's youngest son. She was ambushed

By God's grace, undoubtedly He has sustained me. From the early 1990's to 2019... My mother, nephew, sister and numerous cousins were shot and survived horrific shootings. Like so much of the everyday gun violence in Baltimore City, some of these shootings were committed with illegal guns--guns sold by traffickers and obtained by people who shouldn't have had them

Currently, PLCAA blocks legal claims that could compel gunmakers to take action to keep their guns out of the hands of traffickers and people who shouldn't have them, including by refusing to sell to retailers who they know are fueling the criminal market, having poor safety practices or training, or are turning a blind eye to straw purchasers.

The Declaration of Independence clearly expressed 250 years ago that everybody has the right to Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness. This also means the right to life and to pursue your dreams.

These are our basic fundamental human rights, and a person shall not be deprived of their life. Anyone who's illegal and dangerous conduct deprives someone of their life should face accountability for their misconduct. The people they hurt and their families deserve access to justice. PLCAA denies them that. Passing SB 488 would help set that right.

My precious daughter & grandson were devastated on April 1, 2009 when their (brother & father) respectively died. My daughter Jaazaniah said Mommy, I don't remember my big brother Tavon. She was 3 years old when he died.

Thank you for your invaluable time.