

To members of the Maryland legislature,

My name is Jerold Giddins and I live in Hanlon Longwood, Baltimore. Thank you for providing an opportunity for me to share how independent work has helped my family and why I'm concerned by House Bill 1096, which could make it more difficult for people like me to continue earning extra income when, where, and how I want.

I am a Maryland native, and always enjoy everything that our communities have to offer. Even for someone who has spent my whole life here, one of the ways that I have been able to see more of Maryland is through delivering with DoorDash.

Since I started dashing a few years ago, I have come to really enjoy the flexibility that it offers. I'm raising six children, which certainly takes up a lot of my time. My last job in the customer service industry just didn't offer enough time for me to be there for my family, and I hated missing out on the special moments with them.

Right now I have the freedom to choose how many hours I deliver — usually a few hours each day, but sometimes more when I have the time and others not at all if I want to. If my kids need me — even just for the little things like school pick-ups and drop-offs — I can simply turn off the app and be there for them. It works for me, and I want to make sure it stays that way.

Unfortunately, HB 1096 would be a bad outcome for Dashers like me. Flexibility is the main reason I chose this work — I love having no boss to answer to, shifts assigned to me, or set hours that I need to be on the clock. If this bill made me lose that independence, that would be devastating, and I don't know what I would do without that extra income that dashing offers.

Dashers like me aren't the only ones who could be impacted by passing this bad bill — it could impact other people, in many types of jobs, who depend on being independent contractors and the freedom that it provides. Passing HB 1096 would hurt people across Maryland who are looking for ways to make ends meet besides the traditional 9-to-5 job.

I hope that our representatives will hear loud and clear why we need to make sure we protect options like these that have been a lifeline for so many of us when we need it most. Thank you for your consideration and I hope you will keep my concerns in mind by opposing HB 1096.

Sincerely,
Jerold Giddins