

To members of the Maryland legislature,

My name is Muhammad Akhtar and I live in Glen Burnie. Thank you for providing an opportunity for me to share how independent work has helped me, and why I'm concerned by House Bill 1096, which would make it more difficult for people like me to continue earning extra income when, where, and how I want.

I have been living in Maryland for the past three years and enjoy everything that our communities have to offer. One of the ways that I have been able to see more of Maryland is through delivering with DoorDash.

Since I started dashing back in 2023, I have come to really enjoy the flexibility that it offers. I currently work in retail at a few stores around town, but sometimes I still need some extra income to make ends meet if my shifts fall through. That's where dashing has been a huge help for me and my wife.

Right now I have the freedom to choose how many hours I deliver — usually a few hours each day, but sometimes more and sometimes less. Sometimes my wife even joins me on deliveries and gives us a chance to spend quality time together. It works for us, 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. Losing that independence 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 would be impacted by passing this bad bill — it would impact other people 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,
Muhammad Akhtar

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