

To members of the Maryland legislature,

My name is Larry Gilmer 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 am a Maryland native and have been here my entire life, and enjoy everything that our communities have to offer. Even for someone who has been living here for more than eight decades, one of the ways that I have still been able to see more of Maryland is through delivering with DoorDash.

I just started dashing last year, but I have come to really enjoy the flexibility that it offers. You may not think about someone like me when you picture a delivery worker — an 82 year old — but I take pride in still working to keep busy. But as someone who worked a full career, I appreciate not having a boss to tell me what to do anymore.

Right now I have the freedom to choose how many hours I deliver — I'm usually making deliveries all throughout the week, but sometimes more when I have the time and others not at all if I want to. Having done hard work all my life, now I like to take time for myself every now and again to read and just relax. 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. 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 and don't have a 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,
Larry Gilmer

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