

My name is Kierstyn Rader. I am 16 and have participated in youth shooting sports for seven years. Last year, I was one of 32 students selected for the 2025 NRA Youth Education Summit. I am also an NRA-certified rifle instructor and recently qualified for the Maryland 4-H National Shotgun Practice Squad.

Youth shooting sports teaches focus, discipline, and a deep respect for firearms. By passing this bill, you are creating financial barriers for youth marksmen across our state.

The potential impact of this bill is personal. Last year alone, I spent roughly \$2,000 on just ammunition. In addition to this expense, there are club fees, targets, maintenance, proper hearing and eye protection, and the shotgun. I have been testifying since I was 13. Every year, I am told by delegates that youth will not be affected. Yet, here I am again.

The safety record of our sport is unmatched. Since 2008, there have been zero reported injuries in organized youth shooting sports. In that time, about 63 million youth injuries have occurred in other organized sports. Our discipline remains one of the safest for young people.

Within this year, I also became a founding member of a newly formed multi-disciplined marksmanship club. Part of the club's mission is to raise money to sponsor kids who may not otherwise have the exposure and opportunity due to the sports expenses. Another mission is to reintroduce military veterans, especially wounded warriors, in an effort to make them feel more comfortable

and confident to return to the range. To do this, the club seeks sponsors and completes fundraisers. Passing this will force more volunteer work, reach out to fewer people and organizations, and likely reduce sponsorships.

Each time I have testified, I invite delegates to speak at or attend club meetings and practices. Specifically, where I reside, Howard County. Not one official has ever attended. This past June, however, when Benelli and Highland Sporting Outfitters invited state delegates and senators to experience the sport firsthand, I was also invited. They sponsored a day at the range at Loch Raven Skeet and Trap Center. I hope that any of you who are part of this new bill will recall this special day. Please think about the community you will be impacting. This is our sport, our community, and for many of us, our future. **By passing this bill, you are not only impacting a sport; you are impacting my potential career and the future of small businesses. This discipline has afforded me my future.**

I thank you for this platform. This sport has offered me a dream and a career path I never thought possible. Please do not jeopardize my future and that of other athletes.