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2/20/26

**TO:** Chair of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee **RE:** Testimony in Opposition to SB830  
– Handgun Roster Board Reforms

**Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:**

I am writing to formally state my opposition to the proposed reforms regarding the Handgun Roster Board. My perspective is informed by my dual identity as a responsible gun owner and a survivor of gun violence living in Baltimore City.

I joined this Board with a commitment to public safety and a personal understanding of the stakes; my nephew's murder remains an unsolved case, and I witness the daily impact of violence in my community. Aside from attending my niece's high school graduation—an event her brother should have attended—I have maintained a consistent presence at every quorum.

My opposition to this bill is rooted in the following **technical and operational concerns**:

- **Underestimation of Administrative Volume:** Upon my appointment, the projected workload did not reflect the reality of the Board's functions. We currently process a high volume of technical petitions—exceeding **50 per quarter**.
- **Inadequate Onboarding Infrastructure:** There is currently no formal or informal training program to assist Board members in navigating the complex statutory requirements of handgun classification. We are essentially expected to perform high-stakes technical reviews without a standardized orientation process.
- **Misalignment of Reforms:** The proposed bill fails to address these fundamental resource and training gaps. Adding further layers of regulation or shifting board structures without addressing the **raw volume of petitions** and the **lack of technical support** for members will only lead to further administrative backlogs.

**Operational Reality:** Effective oversight requires more than just new rules; it requires a functional environment. This bill adds complexity to a system that is already struggling with a "sink-or-swim" approach to member training and a crushing workload.

Because these reforms do not address the practical realities of the Board's current operations, I do not believe they will achieve their intended safety or efficiency goals. I respectfully urge an **unfavorable report** on this bill.

Sincerely,

**Kim Dennis**

Citizen Member, Handgun Roster Board