

## **HB0126**

Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the House Judiciary Committee: thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is Galen Muhammad. I am the State Coordinator for United 2A Collective. I am also the chapter president of Onyx Sharpshooters. I enlisted in the Maryland Army National Guard where I later became a commissioned officer and was eventually promoted to the rank of Captain. I am also a certified firearms instructor with the United States Concealed Carry Association (USCCA), the National Rifle Association (NRA) and the United 2A Collective (U2AC).

I appear in support of this bill because it represents narrow, rational, and legally defensible tailoring of an existing statute.

### 1. This Bill Advances Legislative Coherence, Not Deregulation

The seven-day waiting period was enacted as a general precautionary measure.

This bill does not repeal that policy judgment.

Instead, it asks whether the same precaution remains rational when applied to individuals whom the State has already:

- thoroughly investigated
- affirmatively licensed
- and determined are suitable to carry firearms in public

For law-enforcement officers and Wear and Carry permit holders, the factual predicate underlying the waiting period no longer exists.

### 2. Maryland Law Already Draws Risk-Based Distinctions

Maryland statutes routinely distinguish between:

- licensed vs. unlicensed conduct
- vetted vs. unvetted individuals
- institutional trust vs. general access

This bill is consistent with that framework.

Once the State issues a Wear and Carry permit, it has already concluded—after fingerprinting, background checks, and training—that the individual is not a danger to public safety.

Continuing to impose a seven-day delay on that same individual is redundant rather than protective.

### 3. Rational Basis and Narrow Tailoring

From a judicial perspective, the question is not whether waiting periods are permissible generally, but whether their application to this specific class remains rationally related to the stated public-safety interest.

Here:

- the individuals are known to the State
- the checks are complete
- the risks addressed by a “cool-down” period are already mitigated

This bill is narrowly drawn to exempt only those who meet objective statutory criteria, preserving the general rule while eliminating unnecessary burden.

### 4. Reduced Constitutional and Litigation Risk

Overbroad application of firearm regulations has become an area of increasing judicial scrutiny.

By tailoring the waiting period to those it is actually designed to regulate, the General Assembly:

- strengthens the statute’s defensibility
- demonstrates good-faith legislative calibration reduces the risk of successful as-applied challenges

This is a prudent adjustment that protects the integrity of Maryland law.

### 5. Administrability and Enforcement Clarity

This exemption is:

- easy to administer
- objectively verifiable
- consistent with existing permit databases

There is no added burden on law enforcement or licensing agencies.

Closing

This bill reflects measured legislative craftsmanship—retaining the State’s public-safety framework while ensuring it is applied only where it is logically and legally justified.

For those reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration.