

By: Michelle Christman

The over reach of the radical left in connection with HB4 is unconstitutional in thought, idea and practicality.

This is an article that I just wrote. I believe the following rings true in protecting all avenues of our inalienable rights in connection to our 2nd Amendment Right.

As the hot spring day drew to a close, I remember thinking, "I wish the happiness of this day would never end." I was home with my two young children making sandwiches, while my 150-pound dog ran circles around my legs and my husband worked late. As night descended on our home in rural Maryland, I was unprepared for what happened next.

I heard a knock at my door. My strong, unshakable dog quickly ran to the front door and then just as quickly ran back to me with a quiet demeanor I'd never seen before. My heart dropped. Making my way to the door, I saw a face I'd never seen before, but one I will never forget. Peering through the glass on the side of my door was a tall, thin man with thick glasses who looked to be in his early fifties. His clothing, particularly his hooded jacket, looked oddly out of place on this hot spring day. He just stood there staring into my house. Nothing about him felt right. I didn't feel safe.

Though I'd never experienced anything like this, women are often in vulnerable situations. We all need to have a plan, be prepared, and know our rights. In that moment, I was woefully unprepared to protect myself or my family.

My mind raced. I could not call 911 fast enough. Anyone who has ever waited during an emergency for 911 to pick up knows how seconds can last an eternity. "How do I protect my kids and myself in this moment?" I thought. Finally, an operator picked up and I felt safe. But wait, I wasn't really safe. The menacing stranger still stood outside of my door staring into my home.

The operator assured me an officer would get to my home, as soon as they could.

I felt helpless, alone and unsafe. I pulled both children close to me and held them tight. I was unsure what to do, where to take them, and how to protect them. All I knew is that a stranger had shattered my family's peace and we were scared.

At some point, the stranger finally left. When the officer finally arrived after approximately 20 minutes, he explained there are not enough police officers to cover this area of the county. He told me my best protection would be a firearm.

In that moment, I wasn't thinking about the Second Amendment. But I am now. And I'm disturbed by the unrelenting attacks on our fundamental right to self-defense. Take for example, the latest Maryland House Bill 4. While New York billionaire and gun control extremist Michael Bloomberg is targeting suburban women like myself, he wants us to believe that firearms are evil and people who own them are bad people. My personal experience tells me he's wrong.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation reports that there are now more than 420 million firearms in the hands of American gun owners and nearly 18 million of them are semi-automatic sporting rifles. Despite this, the violent crime rate has fallen by 48.6 percent from 1993 to 2017.

But that hasn't stopped gun control advocates from calling for more gun control, including a ban on America's most popular rifle, the AR-15, and other semi-automatic firearms. Gun control extremists call them "assault weapons." Some of these gun ban proponents will say, "the Founders never envisioned semi-automatic firearms. You may have the right to bear arms, but not the right to an AR-15." Well, the Founders never envisioned many modern technologies like today's internet or satellite TV. The First Amendment was written at a time when communications were limited to quill pens, an ink well and a crude printing press, but we all now accept freedom of speech extends to today's internet, TV, radio, Facebook and Twitter. Why don't we allow that same application to the Second Amendment? Technology changes but our rights don't change.

More gun control laws will only make it harder for law-abiding citizens like myself to protect ourselves. If we want to reduce violent crime in Maryland, let's reform Maryland's revolving door justice system and start holding violent criminals accountable.

So, I ask you, in that moment, if that stranger became an intruder in your home with your young children, wouldn't you want the most effective means of self-defense available to you while you waited for the police to arrive?

***Michelle Christman, a Maryland House of Delegate Candidate. She is a resident of Cecil County. Co/owner of Premier Chiropractic in Bel Air, MD. Christman hosts a weekly live radio show, "The Renegade Mom" on WAMD 970 am, The KHZTV Network, iHeart Radio, Spotify, and many other platforms.***