

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to write in testimony on behalf of House Bill 538.

HOUSE BILL 538 E4 1r1940 HB 1502/20 – JUD By: Delegate Hartman Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2021 Assigned to: Judiciary A BILL ENTITLED 1 AN ACT concerning 2 Handgun Permits – Qualifications – High–Risk Occupations 3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of State Police to issue a certain permit to carry, 4 wear, or transport a handgun to a person who meets certain requirements and is 5 employed in a certain profession; and generally relating to permits to carry, wear, or 6 transport a handgun.

1. Has good and substantial reason to wear, carry, or 24 transport a handgun, such as a finding that the permit is necessary as a reasonable 25 precaution against apprehended danger; OR 26 2. IS EMPLOYED AS: 27 A. A CORRECTIONAL OFFICER; 28 B. A PAROLE AND PROBATION OFFICER; 29 C. A FIREFIGHTER; HOUSE BILL 538 3 1 D. AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN; 2 E. A RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER; 3 F. A SECURITY GUARD FOR A CHURCH OR RELIGIOUS 4 ORGANIZATION; 5 G. A PHYSICIAN; 6 H. A PHYSICIAN’S ASSISTANT; 7 I. A NURSE; OR 8 J. A NURSE PRACTITIONER.

I strongly support this bill as a citizen of the State of Maryland and as a Firefighter - EMT B. I believe that it is imperative for our public servants and first responders to be able to defend themselves in this time of crisis. With the opioid epidemic and now covid pandemic our first responders and care givers are on the front line every day. As a first responder I whole heartedly support this Bill. Our front-line workers face dangers in every aspect of their daily activities, whether on the job or on their personal time. They face situations such as violent acts on the scenes of overdoses, disgruntled family members that feel they aren't doing enough to save their loved ones, those who are coming out of seizures not knowing where they are, who you are in their house and personal space. They must respond to known drug areas and houses to render care. Responding to patients' homes seeing obvious criminal activities (drug use), being threatened by attack dogs believing they were calling in adult protective services, conflict with family members believing they were the ones who called in adult protective services etc. These are a hand full of examples of what our front-line heroes face every day. For these reasons I offer my utmost support for House Bill 538. Our first responders and front-line workers are facing life threatening situations daily, we as a community should support them with the ability to defend themselves in these trying times. Thank you for time and attention in this important matter.

FF/EMT-B David Cooper

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