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Shaneen Allen, 27, obtained a license-to-carry permit and purchased a .380 Bersa Thunder handgun after she was robbed in a Philadelphia alley in July 2013. (Gary Bernard Charwin) (Gary Bernard Charwin)

By

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on September 19, 2014 at 7:33 AM, updated September 19, 2014 at 12:07 PM

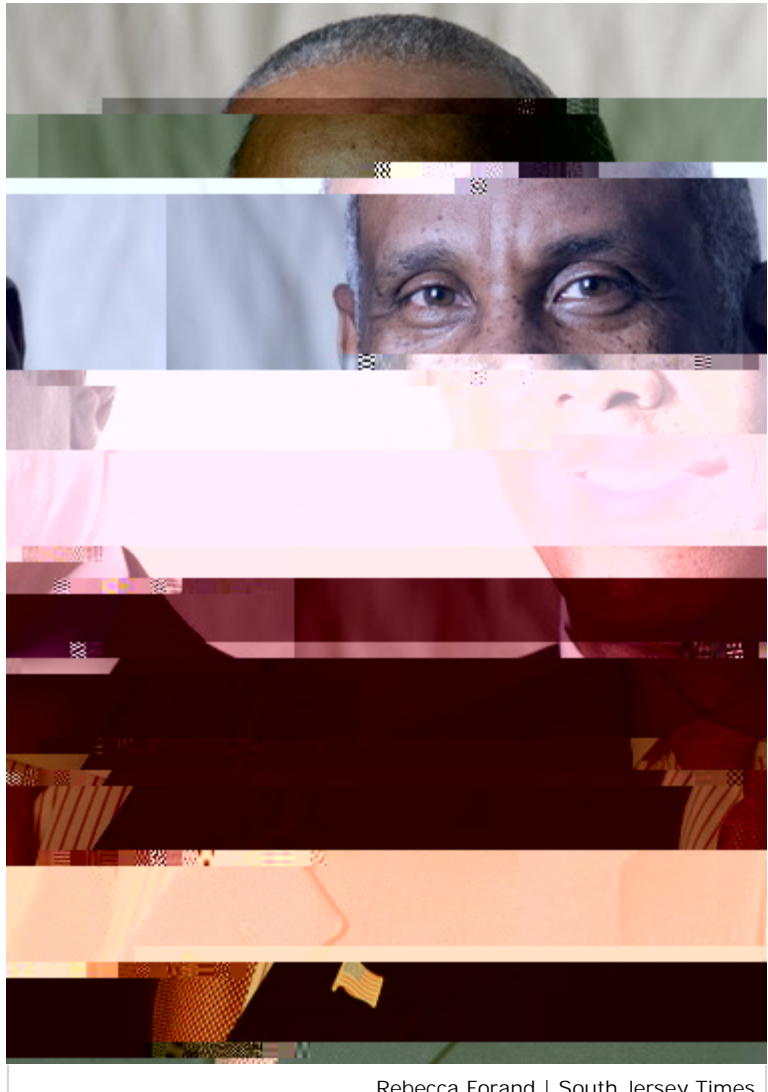
is calling for organizations and political leaders to put their support behind Shaneen Allen, a Philadelphia woman who faces three to five years in prison for carrying a handgun in New Jersey.

Allen, 27, has a license-to-carry permit in Pennsylvania and bought a .380 Bersa Thunder handgun after she was robbed in the city in 2013.

She was

during which she disclosed to the state trooper that she had the handgun in her car.

The mother of two claimed she did not know her license was invalid in the state, according to media reports. She was denied for a pre-trial intervention program and faces a minimum of three and a half years in prison if convicted.



Rebecca Forand | South Jersey Times

Minor, a Democrat who also serves as deputy director of the Delaware River & Bay Authority and is on the steering committee of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, is asking for other leaders to join him in condemning the possibility of jail time for Allen and supporting her in her legal battle.

"We understand that gun control is a very difficult issue that inflames passions on both sides. We are not here to debate that issue," Minor said Thursday afternoon. "We are here to support Ms. Allen, a person who clearly does not deserve to go to prison for this offense."

Allen has received public support from the New Jersey Second Amendment Society, Senator Jeff Van Drew and Assemblyman John Bramnick. Her trial was originally scheduled to begin on Oct. 6, but has now been moved to Oct. 20.

"We are asking other leaders to join in to prevent this injustice from occurring," Minor said. "Ms. Allen does not deserve to go to jail for what she did. Shame on us if we let this happen."

Allen's case has brought individuals from both sides of the political aisle together in lobbying for her release.

According to Minor, the issue transcends politics to being a matter of "right and wrong."

"Someone's life hangs in the balance here," he said. "She's looking down the barrel of three years in prison. I think that's just wrong."

Minor is asking lawmakers to take a closer look at legislation that would allow Allen to face prison time for something that is legal in a neighboring state and would like Allen's trial to continue to be delayed until some type of executive order changes her circumstances or she is accepted into a pre-trial intervention program.

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