

**Written Testimony in FAVOR of HB 17 – Consent of the Governed Act**  
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I completely support and am in favor of all the changes proposed in HB 17 as they are currently proposed by Delegate Cox, so that our great state of Maryland (also known as the **Free State!**) can have a safety and emergency plan that is balanced and takes into consideration all aspects that need to be managed during an emergency situation. The current legislation as it is written today is far too broad, general, open ended and opened to the interpretation of the enforcer, and in doing so becomes **unconstitutional**. How in God's name did this legislation in its current form get passed in the first place? The unconstitutionality of the legislation is argued by many local constitutional experts. But it doesn't take an expert to see that left in the hands of the wrong governor, acting more as an Emperor, will lead to the rights of the citizens being violated, stomped on, squashed and suppressed. Clearly anyone can see how this has already occurred.

The Constitution of the United States along with its Bill of Rights protects our rights as Citizens of the State of Maryland. Other experts can cite all the articles that are being violated by this legislation as it is currently written and the sponsor of this bill HB 17 , Delegate Cox, I'm sure can enlighten you so that I don't have to waste your time or mine listing all the violations here again. But what I do want to explicitly point out is that we all now know! The citizens of Maryland are no longer in the dark about what has happened and what is currently happening. It may have been oversight to write the currently legislation so obviously unconstitutional, or it may have been intentional. I find it hard to believe that it was intentional as it would have been the intent of many people many years ago both in 2001 and again in 2005 or so when it was updated. For this to be intentional, means that our government is taking an active role in the demise of the citizens and in the total destruction of the great State of Maryland as a whole. While I find this hard to believe, the point is that **We the People** are now aware.

So now that we are aware you the legislators on this committee as well as my own representatives in District 32, Senator Beidle, Delegate Barlett, Delegate Chang, and Delegate Rogers, have this great opportunity in front of you to change the course of this perception, and to change this current course of action leading to the total destruction of the great State of Maryland. Continuing to support such unconstitutional legislation is really **tyranny!** There is no other word for it! And for you to support it means that you yourself are participating in tyranny! You were sworn into office. And you took an oath of office to uphold the Constitution of the United States, not to uphold some legislation that was inappropriately passed years ago. Your oath obligates you to make this change and to make it now! The way I see it you are obligated to vote in favor of all the changes presented in HB 17 as originally presented by Delegate Cox (and yes I have read them) so as to remove the unconstitutionality of the existing legislation and realign the legislation with our Constitution. This is your job, it is what we pay you to do. Anything short of that is supporting and abetting in the tyranny!

You could have actually done this many months ago when the Emperor aka Governor first started down this path. After the first 14 days which seemed reasonable to most citizens, the lockdowns and the overreach continued, and continued and continued, but of course these actions were backed by the current legislation. Many of the citizens myself included attempted to contact our representatives to start a conversation and dialog to attempt to get things changed, to stop the citizen oppression and

overreach of the Emperor. But most of our representatives did not reply in a meaningful way. I myself sent an email to every senator and delegate in our General Assembly. This is not a hard task, it's a simple copy and paste of the email address and of the content and I sent them in groups of 5 so as not to create the appearance of a DOS attack on the system. It was all done manually, but efficiently. The only responses I got back were "out of office" automated responses.

When that failed, I attempted to call my representatives at least. Each call was answered by the answering machine and my calls were never returned. At this point like most of the other citizens here in this great state of Maryland, I gave up. We have now gone through 9 months of total lack of representation. That equates to 75 % of the year. I think as a result I should only have to pay 75% of my Maryland state taxes this year as I have not gotten the representation I deserve or that I have paid for. Again HB 17 with the proposed changes as Delegate Cox has presented, would alleviate the **taxation without representation** issue that Maryland citizens have experienced in 2020 and now continuing into 2021. If you do not pass this bill as proposed, your actions will be taken by the citizens as a total lack of representation, because you as individuals fail to listen to the concerns and cries of your constituents. We didn't hire you to just occupy a seat 90 days out of the year in the state house. You were hired to **represent us! REPRESENT US**, the citizens of Maryland! Have any one of you done anything to query your constituents and get an understanding of their concerns or suffering as a result of this whole government unconstitutional interpretation of the current MEMP legislation? I haven't seen a single question of "How am I as your representative, doing?" or "What can I as your representative do for you?". Oh, but I do get the summaries of "I as your representative voted for this and that." Well, I may not have appreciated you voting for this and that but you as my representative have never asked!

You have the technology to push your agenda to your constituents which is not what we hired you to do. But you can start using that same technology to inquire of your constituents and do your job as it is intended and that is to **REPRESENT US!** We hired you, voted you into office, we put our trust in you that you would do the right thing, that you would follow your oath of office, that you would uphold the Constitution. Even if that meant breaking other laws that were in place, because by doing so you would have been covered by your Oath of Office. But not a single of my representatives was willing to stand up for my rights as a citizen. It is really disgusting what our government has become.

But here today you have an opportunity to change all this. You have an opportunity move this HB 17 forward as it is proposed by Delegate Cox, and in so doing you can not only change the perception of your constituents, but you can also realign the government to that which was created in the Constitution in the first place. We never voted to have an Emperor or an Emperorship. We were born into this free country which embraces and holds space for each of the 50 free states and the Constitution along with its Bill of Rights which the great state of Maryland adopted, and which protects the rights of the citizens in each state to include the great state of Maryland - the Free State I might add! Never has there been a vote to change that. If I wanted something else, if I wanted to live in an Emperorship, I can easily move out of the Free State and into a country which has that. But I didn't and I won't! We still have the Constitution and we have never voted on anything else. So for you folks who we hired to **REPRESENT US** and to uphold our rights under that Constitution, to assume otherwise is **tyranny**, period. We didn't hire you for that and we didn't vote for something else. Therefore it only follows logically and legally that your only course of action is to support this bill HB 17 as proposed by delegate Cox and restore our Constitutional rights and realign the legislation to our Constitution.

Please do the right thing, put your loyalties to your party aside and direct your loyalties where they belong and that is to your constituents and to the Constitution. Be a real hero and accept the changes as per HB 17 as Delegate Cox has proposed them. Be a hero and your great constituents will embrace your caring and consideration of them and this great state of Maryland – the Free State.

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard. My voice matters. Make it matter!

Nelda Fink