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My name is Dr. Tony Campbell and I am testifying in favor of HB 17.

Our system of government was born in a time of crisis, but not the one you are thinking of, I am speaking of the English Civil War.

During this conflict, two major philosophies of governance appeared, one from Thomas Hobbes and another from John Locke.

Hobbes' Leviathan speaks to a centralized government with broad powers, to manage the country during periods of crisis in order to keep people alive, while Locke's theory mandates Legislative Oversight by enacting tools such as separation of powers and checks and balances.

One of the main purposes of Legislative Oversight is ensuring a level of transparency in the actions of the Executive branch which allows for the people's Representatives to give consent to those actions. It is this absence of Legislative consent which is the most troubling aspect of COVID-19 response.

In my opinion, the damage to our public school children will have the most long-term repercussions.

As a parent of a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader, I wanted to find out what Maryland parents felt about the extended virtual learning environment of the past 10 months. I conducted a survey in which over 1,500 Maryland parents participated. One of the takeaways is the high level of frustration felt by parents over the lack of transparency of when and how our children will be let back into the classroom.

**62% of Parents do not believe their school's educational curricula is good and updated regularly.**

**73% of Parents do not believe their school has regular Parent-Teacher meetings to encourage parent engagement.**

**83% of Parents are dissatisfied with virtual education.**

Parents are clearly frustrated. The people are looking for leadership from Annapolis. Only the General Assembly has the ability to mandate transparency by decision makers at the local and state levels.

The 14<sup>th</sup> day approval window listed in HB 17 is an excellent step to strengthen Legislative Oversight so that the people's Representatives can give their consent in times of crisis.

Thank You.