

January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I fully support the HB 17 being sponsored by Delegate Dan Cox.

The coronavirus pandemic has been a very challenging time for all Americans without question; however, the residents of Maryland have endured egregious breeches of political power that has gone unchecked and has impeded on our constitutional rights and laws.

The governor, county executives, and local mayors have used their executive powers and actions unnecessarily and without just cause throughout this pandemic. An extended, unchecked state of emergency is linked to consequences including: a growing mental health crisis, rising suicides and overdoses, hunger and poverty, increased child and domestic abuse, and an ever widening economic and educational gap in Maryland all for a virus that has a death rate more in line with a severe seasonal influenza. Yet we were still ordered to stay at home for months on end, wear face coverings, and do as we were told without just cause and research; that is not freedom. Freedom is allowing people to make their own personal choices about what is best for them and their families. One person should not have the ability to make these decisions, and that is one of the many reasons, which I have outlined below, that I support HB 17.

- Governor Hogan, local CE's and mayors DO NOT have the right to keep us in a state of emergency for a virus that has a mortality rate of 0.2% of Maryland residents under the age of 70.
- Asymptomatic infections, the majority of Covid-19 cases have a contagion rate under 1% - a state of emergency is not warranted any longer
- The only wide scaled randomized controlled study on masks found no reduction in Covid-19 among masked subjects
- States that have locked down, restricted commerce, education, and religious services do not have significantly lower hospitalization or mortality rates than states with limited or no restrictions
- Hospitalization has not exceeded capacity in the state of Maryland over the past year. Concern that critical Covid-19 cases would exceed hospital capacity was a fundamental premise for declaring and maintaining the state of emergency

I urge you as a respected delegate of the Maryland House of Representatives to fully support this measure to protect our constitutional and human rights in the state of Maryland. ***BRING BACK BALANCE & LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT!!***

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tracy Barr  
Towson, MD 21286

