

SUPPORT FOR HB 17
Nicole Hartman
Hagerstown, Maryland

Chair Pendergrass and HGO Committee members,

As a constituent I am deeply concerned of the unchecked emergency power Governor Larry Hogan has utilized during the last ten months. Our government was, and is, designed to utilize all three branches of government to help prevent the overreach of one individual. In this case, that would be Larry Hogan.

While I understand safety and precautions are important, however, at what cost? Many Marylanders have lost jobs, their businesses, and their livelihoods. Not forgetting to mention the increased suicides and mental distress on children and adults alike.

Ultimately, this comes down to freedom. As stated within the Maryland Declaration of Rights, Article 44, states, "That the provisions of the Constitution of the United States, and of this State, apply, as well as in time of war, as in time of peace; and any departure therefrom, or violation thereof, under the plea of necessity, or any other plea, is subversive of good Government, and tends to anarchy and despotism."

Even in times of emergency, our rights as United States/Maryland citizens should never be vacated. Where there is freedom, there is choice.

Respectfully,

Nicole Hartman