

**Emily Tarsell, LCPC, LCPAT**

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**2314 Benson Mill Road  
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January 26, 2021

**Emily Tarsell – Re: SB 68 – MD Emergency Plan – EHEA Committee- UNF**

Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee Chair and Members,

HB 68 seems to be an attempt to undermine the Maryland Constitution and the legislative process by creating a Department of Emergency Management as an extension of the Executive Branch which would be headed by the Governor who would be given the sole authority of mandating terms which would be obligatory on the state and all Maryland citizens and **“forever faithfully and inviolably observed, and kept by the government of this State and all of its citizens according to the true intent and meaning of the said compact.”** The bill appears to preempt the role of the legislative branch and the participation of citizens in a democratic process as suggested by the excerpt below:

“The Governor is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into and execute, on behalf of the State of Maryland, such emergency management and civil defense compacts with other states, possessions or territories of the United States or with the District of Columbia, substantially in the form herein before set forth, provided that the Board of Public Works, with the concurrence of the [Director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency] SECRETARY, may approve alterations of the terms, provisions and conditions of the aforesaid proposed emergency management and civil defense compact so long as said alterations are in substantial compliance with the terms, provisions and conditions herein before set forth and when the **Governor, in the exercise of the power as aforesaid, enters into and executes an emergency management and civil defense compact on behalf of the State of Maryland, said compact is hereby approved and ratified and every paragraph, clause, provision, matter and thing in the said compact contained shall be obligatory on this State and the citizens thereof, and shall be forever faithfully and inviolably observed, and kept by the government of this State and all of its citizens according to the true intent and meaning of the said compact.** “

The consequences of this bill are too far reaching across multiple agencies and too consequential with regard to citizens' rights to be rushed through a Congressional session especially at a time when testimony from citizens and agencies combined is limited to 4 people for the whole State and that testimony is online. I strongly urge the Committee, in the interests of reasonable government and rule by, for and of the people, **veto this bill.**

Thank you.

Emily Tarsell