

Respectfully submitted by:
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Honorable Delegates:

The one role of the government by its very nature is the service of justice – do no harm. When a Governor declares a state of emergency indefinitely, there is no justice in that decision. In fact, the lengthy state of emergency has done more harm than good and it is an injustice - here's how.

For almost a year, I have needed a spinal tap to determine the cause of significant nerve damage. Due to the state of emergency, the procedure cannot be performed. As a result, not only is a diagnosis impossible, but I am unable to receive treatment. The indefinite emergency had blocked my access to the diagnostics, care and treatment I need. Furthermore, anyone with a chronic disease, for example rheumatoid arthritis, is unable to receive injections to prevent further joint damage. Instead, they must live in increasing pain with no options.

My adult son who works in the restaurant industry was very successful, and yet now has 1/10th of his income and he cannot find a new job. He also is in need of diagnosis and treatment for what appears to be a very debilitating autoimmune disease. We are not sure. He has no access to the care he needs. He has no job and he has no job available to him.

I am a clinical laboratory director who has built and inspected laboratories worldwide. I have over 30 years of experience in all areas of lab medicine including infectious diseases and microbiology. I have supported the efforts of the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Defense as well. I also worked at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine within the division of Infectious Diseases. As a professional, I am very concerned about the questionable data that is currently collected in the field regarding COVID-19 testing – the questionable data from which policy decisions are made.

Department of Health officials in Frederick County, Maryland have no idea which test kits for Coronavirus are used in the field. They do not know which of the methods are currently being used, nor the accuracy of the kits. They have no knowledge of whether confirmatory testing is conducted and if so, at what rate. Moreover, the case fatality rate, i.e., the risk of death, is unknown to the Department of Health, even though the Frederick County Memorial Hospital has a cohort with which to obtain that data. Lastly, The Frederick Department of Health does not follow proper lab consensus standards, as evidenced by the fact that the lost all of the samples collected from one cohort in Frederick County.

My point is that policy makers and the Governor are making injurious decisions based on specious or little data. A state of emergency cannot continue *ad infinitum*. After the 2-week mark, more harm than good is done and justice is not served. Please vote in favor of HB17 – Consent of the Governed Act.

Respectfully,
Patricia Price

