

Cox, Dan Delegate

From: Mark Meyerovich <mmeyerovich@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 9:33 AM
To: Cox, Dan Delegate
Subject: Support for HB-17

Honorable Delegate,

Please support the **Consent of the Governed Act**, MD HB17 introduced by Delegate Dan Cox, which demands the following:

- Requires the governor to consult the legislature within 72 hours of issuing a proclamation
- Requires that three independent experts deem it necessary to physically close any business
- Prohibits orders to stay at home, wear masks or be vaccinated
- Considers violations of government orders to be civil offences with a maximum penalty of \$50
- Ensures extensions to a state of emergency can only last for 14 days and must be justified by the legislature being called to session
- Requires the General Assembly to vote on emergency provisions
- Limits states of emergency to 14 days and require approval from the legislature via emergency session within 72 hours of such declaration

Most of us are aware that [Governor Hogan has taken unprecedented measures](#) to reportedly contain the spread of Covid-19 in Maryland, including closure of public schools, restriction of access to state buildings, and prohibition of mass gatherings.

The 10th Amendment affirms we must have a [separation of powers](#). By ruling unilaterally, Governor Hogan and county officials in our state have overstepped their authority. The Constitution does *not* grant our governor and county officials additional powers; it *limits* their powers.

Please also co-sponsor the **Resolution to End the State of Emergency**, also proposed by Delegate Cox.

Per section (4) of the [Maryland Code, Public Safety § 14-107](#),

“The General Assembly by joint resolution may terminate a state of emergency at any time. After the General Assembly terminates a state of emergency, the Governor shall issue an executive order or proclamation that terminates the state of emergency.”

This Resolution is important and valid because:

- Lock-down efforts cause [more harm](#) than Covid-19 in Maryland
- Voluntary social distancing is [more effective](#) than lock-down
- [Data shows](#) masks do not prevent the spread of Covid-19
- Hospital capacity has not been exceeded
- The Covid-19 vaccines [have not been fully safety tested](#) and therefore constitute a human experiment which cannot lawfully or ethically be mandated

Sincerely,

Mark Meyerovich
Gaithersburg

Cox, Dan Delegate

From: Lorraine Radcliff <rainrad2013@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 12:56 PM
Subject: HB 17

As a constituent and small business owner, I ask you to support HB 17 Consent of the Governed Act. This important bill helps ensure our constitutional and human rights are protected against intentional and unintentional overreach.

As the covid-19 lockdowns have dragged on for 10 months countless numbers of people have lost their livelihood, homes, succumbed to depression, drug overdoses, and will not have enough income to regain their livelihood in the foreseeable future. Small businesses have been forced to close or greatly reduce the number of customers they can serve, and have to jump through hoops to keep what little of their business they have left open by implementing draconian social distancing, sanitization, and mask wearing measures dictated by the governor of Maryland.

Our numbers remain low, our hospitals are not overflowing, and it is clear that this virus does not warrant these measures that are doing more harm than good. States that have not implemented these measures are doing just as well if not better than we are, entire countries who have not locked down or made their citizens wear masks are doing just fine.

The justification for these measures is clearly lacking in actual medical facts: the mortality rate is .2% for the elderly who are the most affected, this is not much worse than the flu, masks have been shown to be ineffective in the only wide-scale randomized controlled study done on mask usage, PCR testing has not been done properly and have artificially inflated the case numbers with false positives, and asymptomatic people who test positive almost never infect anyone. It is clear at this point that lockdowns, masks, and social distancing measures are basically pointless and the ability of our government to continue doing this despite what we now know needs to be curbed to prevent further damage to our citizens, economy, and restore trust in our government.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this note, and I remain hopeful that our legislators will do the right thing. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Lorraine Radcliff

Cox, Dan Delegate

From: MICHAEL DEENER <lisa.deener@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 10:38 AM
To: Cox, Dan Delegate
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 17

To the Honorable Members of the Committee:

There are many reasons why we urge you to support HB 17, to remove unconstitutional and unlawful prohibitions on citizens in times of "emergency."

In the case of "covid-19", while information was sparse, in the beginning of 2020, many countries including the U.S., made what appeared to be spontaneous decisions, unprecedented in world history, to "lock down" their citizens, preventing movement, commerce, and nearly all in-person activity. While it may have seemed necessary at the time to address an unknown quantity in the early stages of information, the response quickly removed the individual from making his or her own decisions with regard to mitigating what is an individual threat to health or well-being, if any exists. In the case of contagious disease, throughout history individuals have exercised their decision-making power, employing the doctrine of informed consent, where the government and scientific experts provide the data, and individuals take appropriate actions, tailored to their specific needs, individual health concerns, and desires, balancing the threat of illness against the often more onerous threats to the individual's liberty and livelihood. This is in accordance with natural law and common law, where the individual exercises sovereign authority over his own person, accomplishing the delicate balance between liberty and public health or safety by allowing each person the opportunity to make his choices and accept his consequences. This principle of individual sovereignty and freedom has served humankind well and maintained an orderly system which supports the individual, and by extension, the greater good of civilization. Where "public safety" has been employed to tip the scales against other issues of well-being, such as freedom of movement, speech, and association, as well as the right to due process with regard to the ownership of one's ability to make a living, there have been devastating consequences. In the case of "covid-19", the consequences are demonstrably unacceptable in a free society.

There are many aspects of the response of the government, and in particular, the State of Maryland and its counties, that violate these principles of sovereignty of the individual, and in violation of the U.S. Constitution and natural law. Here are some examples of facts that do not appear to have been a part of the decision making process.

1. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has not isolated a "SARS-Cov-2" virus. It has documented as late as Fall 2020 that there are no known samples of the virus that is assumed to cause "covid-19." With the alleged spread of this alleged virus, one would expect that samples would be readily available. Instead, a computer program was developed using a very small sample of viral material assumed to be "novel," and the genetic code was created based on a set of assumptions. Again, the CDC has no sample of "SARS-Cov-2" to date.

2. Even if SARS-Cov-2 exists, it has not been proven to be the cause of "covid-19," a set of symptoms that seem at once unrelated to one another, and yet generic enough that the symptoms alone could be used to diagnose a wide variety of known illnesses.

3. The "diagnosis" of "covid-19" is based almost entirely on an RT-PCR "test," which its inventor Dr. Kary Mullis, had stated in numerous videotaped interviews is NOT a diagnostic tool. RT-PCR enhances material so that it can be studied further, it does not indicate the presence of illness or response to illness in a person. Dr. Mullis passed away in August 2019, but his videos are widely available on the internet.

4. The World Health Organization (WHO) revised its definition of "pandemic" in early 2020, so that any illness that is common among people can be labeled such. This has had devastating economic and social impacts throughout the world as governments rushed to apply this new definition and act in a manner unprecedented in human history based on faulty data and generic definitions.

5. In light of the scant information linking a "novel" coronavirus (which is from a family of viruses causing the common cold), there is little evidence for a connection between a "widespread" illness and the response of the State of Maryland to "contain" it. Hospitalizations in the State are at normal levels and have remained so throughout the "pandemic."

6. The use of masks to prevent viral spread has been disproven by studies dating back decades. Not only do masks not prevent viral spread, but their use has been discouraged, even among health care workers, for generations. This was common knowledge among health care providers (HCPs), and one's own experience in a busy doctor's office, where health care providers see dozens of patients over generations, with a variety of illnesses, and no masks are worn or encouraged. Not only are masks ineffective against viral spread, but their long-term use can also cause illness, including hypoxia (low oxygen), hypocapnia (high CO₂), heart palpitations, elevated blood pressure, brain fog, and a depressed immune system, as well as strep, staph, fungal, mold infections of the lungs, Legionnaires disease, and the ill effects of breathing in chemicals, dyes, and fibers from the masks. Over 600 American physicians petitioned President Donald Trump with this information, and it is also supported by the American Academy of Physicians and Surgeons, the New England Journal of Medicine, and medical universities. In accordance with these facts, which have been demonstrated through many studies worldwide over decades of research, HCPs never wore masks in the office, recognizing the futility and harm of the practice. In addition, viral particles are very small. The use of a mask to prevent viral spread has been compared to installing a chain link fence to keep out mosquitoes. Despite these facts, the State of Maryland dictated HCPs and their patients to begin wearing masks in the office, and within all indoor spaces. This violates not only the ADA and HIPAA, but also OSHA requirements for proper fitting of masks and physical testing of employees who are being required to wear masks at any place of employment.

A Canadian physician, Dr. Denis Rancourt, has compiled a list of studies that disprove the effectiveness of masks in containing illness:

<https://www.rcreader.com/commentary/masks-dont-work-covid-a-review-of-science-relevant-to-covide-19-social-policy>

A recent CDC report supports this conclusion, showing that 70% of "new covid cases" were reporting that they had been wearing masks.

https://twitter.com/justin_hart/status/1315424421935411201/photo/1

7. In Summer 2020, Governor Hogan admitted the devastating effects of "lockdowns" on our economy. Yet, he continued to issue edicts that reduce the ability of already-struggling businesses and organizations to serve the community and provide for their families by arbitrarily limiting capacity and requiring customers and servers to wear masks, again in violation of the individual's right to

sovereignty, and scientific evidence that advises AGAINST the practice. Governor Hogan cannot demonstrate a positive affect of lockdowns because there is none, and he openly admits that his actions have caused untold devastation of the economy.

8. Another aspect of the justification propping up these unconstitutional mandates is the notion of "asymptomatic" transmission of illness. An "asymptomatic" person is, in medical terms, is what we once referred to as a "healthy" person. The symptoms of illness are indicative of the body's response to pathogens. Our bodies are constantly engaging with external pathogens, from the time of our birth. The fact that we don't die immediately upon birth is an indication that our immune systems are functioning as they were intended. No symptoms = no illness. In fact, a recent study from none other than Wuhan, China in November 2020 disproved the notion of "asymptomatic" carriers of "covid-19."

9. A group of hundreds of physicians representing a wide variety of specialties including immunology, internal medicine, ophthalmology, and general practice, called America's Frontline Doctors, has testified publicly on the various aspects of the "covid-19" response, including the inefficacy of masks, the cheap and effective treatments that they and their peers worldwide have used with great success (including ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine), the harmful physical and psychological effects of keeping people physically separate from one another and in homes instead of among the population at large (this affects Vitamin D absorption, the ability to create herd immunity, and receiving fresh air into the lungs which enhances the immune system, not to mention the psychological effects on health, where suicides and depression are becoming rampant and are preventable effects of this response).

Other doctors who have published studies on the response to "covid-19" include Dr. Russell Blaylock:

https://www.globalresearch.ca/face-masks-pose-serious-risks-healthy/5712649?fbclid=IwAR0h_IACAeylbdDo6fqpXUNqU2I5PYJs_nZX2vC724NZFYRnEq9bdcll0cY

and Dr. Judy Mikovits (a former colleague of Dr. Fauci) who has written and spoken extensively on the dangers of prolonged mask wearing.

<https://drjudyamikovits.com/>

Our nation's founding document, the Declaration of Independence, acknowledges that "we are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights, among them, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Based on the scientific facts, including research both current and ongoing, we strongly believe that requiring healthy people to wear masks, to avoid public interactions, and to limit business in stores and restaurants, is not only unscientific, but unlawful and immoral. We believe that man is made in the image of God in accordance with Genesis 1:26-27, and that one's face is the most unique and recognizable evidence of His design. We are not commanded to cover our faces, in fact our countenance should reflect Christ. Our bodies are equipped with immune systems that enable us to fight off pathogens, and the overall mortality rate for "covid-19" cases in the State of Maryland is approximately 0.2%, consistent with a typical flu season. Mortality rates in the United States are not appreciably higher in 2020 than in previous years, and in fact are lower than 2018 and 2019. Medical services in the State of Maryland have not been overwhelmed by response to "covid-19." Thus, medical decisions and practice should be left in the hands of the individual, in keeping with the doctrines of informed consent and individual sovereignty.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Lisa Deener for the Deener Family
Middletown, MD
lisa.deener@comcast.net

Cox, Dan Delegate

From: Linda <lfdonaldson@live.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 10:05 PM
To: Cox, Dan Delegate
Subject: House Bill 17

Dear sir, I am writing to voice my support for House Bill 17. I feel the Governor's Emergency Powers should have Legislative review first and a vote for each executive order prior to being issued. Linda Kavanagh
Sent from my iPhone

From: Linda Diefenbach [mailto:cldief@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 4:01 PM
To: Cox, Dan Delegate <Dan.Cox@house.state.md.us>
Subject: Fwd: My Testimony for Delegate Dan Cox

I am writing to provide my testimony about the extreme difficulty the ongoing emergency declaration and subsequent heavy handed mandates have created in my life.

The worst of the mandates has been the mask mandate enacted in April. It has caused a significant decline in my physical **health** and mental **well being** because I am unable to wear a mask due to oxygen deprivation caused by the masks. To date, a wide scale randomized controlled study conducted on mask use found no reduction in Covid-19 among masked subjects. <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/m20-6817>

Here's a list of how the mandates have impacted my life.

1. I was denied medical treatment with my ophthalmologist on Monday, January 18th, 2021. The appointment was made approximately a year ago (pre covid) as a **follow up and check up on my eyes** after having a laser treatment to prevent glaucoma from suddenly developing. The day of the appointment, I called to ask them about their mask policy and they confirmed I had to wear a mask. I told the woman on the phone that I am unable to wear a mask, but that I would **work with the** to provide a solution to allow minimal time in the mask by staying in my car until they could get me into the office. I told them I would wear the mask as I walked through the office with my hand lifting out the mask so I could breath, and that I'd be willing to do the same in the **examination** room. The young woman, conferred with her office manager about my solution to the mask issue and the office manager reiterated that I had to wear a mask, had to wear it properly or I couldn't come to the appointment. They cancelled my appointment. I've had problems with the laser procedure and had developed another eye issue, so I desperately needed to have this appointment.
2. With the other 5 - 6 medical appointments I have had, I've been forced to wear a mask for a period of time until I **arrived** into the examining room. During the time I've been forced to wear a mask, (checking in for

the appointment, then walking through the public spaces) I have anxiety and panic attacks due to lack of adequate oxygen. It takes a while to recover from this emotional trauma of oxygen deprivation.

3. I can not go to Utah to see my 92 year old father as I have done yearly for the last 10 years because I can not wear a mask while at the airport and on the airplanes.
4. I am unable to make an appointment with another specialist to address an orthopedic issue that has been worsening for 6 months. **Without treatment**, my ability to walk normally will be affected.
5. I am unable to go to the gym as I have done 5 days a week for the last 10 years. I am in a physical decline due to the lack of exercise.
6. In order to do grocery shopping without a mask, I drive to West Virginia where **mask mandates are not stringent**. Had I attempted grocery shopping in Maryland, I would have to endure confrontations with other shoppers and management. My Frederick County councilman, Kai Hagen confronted a shopper in Thurmont, posted the incident, including pictures of the shoppers involved on Facebook. **In essence Hagen was setting the standard for confronting people in public spaces**. Confrontations like this are very common and I can not deal with this **type of interaction**.
7. I was informed two weeks ago that I can no longer go into the office with my **elderly cat** at the veterinarian office. I have to wait in the car while the doctor examines my **cat**.
8. I was forced to give up my home based clothing business in August 2020. I've had this business 7.5 years. **The** business required a great deal of physical interaction with my clients, and "social distancing" would have been impossible. My intent was to keep working another year until I turned 66 and could go on Social Security. The loss of income from my business is estimated to be \$20,000.
9. My 35th wedding anniversary and 65th birthday was in July. Normally we go out to dinner or take a small vacation to celebrate. Instead we had to stay home.
10. My son works in an "essential business" locally. I've had to mitigate the anxiety he has about wearing a mask during his shifts as well as the stress he has over becoming "mask police" with patrons who come into the store who don't have masks on. **He is now regularly dealing with anxiety about going to work.**

I have contacted both my Senator Ron Young and Delegate Ken Kerr to voice my opposition to the mandates at various times during the last 9 months and I have not received any response from them. The last time I contacted them was last week and I still haven't heard from either of them. This is outrageous. I have no representation from my legislators.

This has been the most devastating 10 months of my life at the hands of a tyrannical governor wielding the power of Title 14 against the citizens of Maryland. I have difficulty imagining that when this title was revised after the terrorist event of 9/11 that the Maryland lawmakers who wrote this intended it to be used to crush the rights of Maryland citizens, but that's what happened and I believe it will be used again if We the People don't speak up now....

This situation must NEVER be allowed to happen again to the citizens of Maryland.

Title 14 MUST be changed. Delegate Cox HB 17, Consent of the Governed Act, is seeking to protect our constitutional and human rights from tyrannical and over reaching Maryland Governors. Delegate Cox's retooling of the bill is reasonable and must be passed.

How did we go from "flattening the curve" for two weeks in March (which I willingly did) to 9 months of violations of my rights as a citizen of Maryland and of the United States of America?

Linda Diefenbach

Linda Diefenbach
6742 Deer Spring Ln,
Middletown, MD 21769

Cox, Dan Delegate

From: Lauren Wood <laurenwood018@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 12:01 PM
To: Cox, Dan Delegate
Subject: House Bill 17 Support

To assist us as quickly and comprehensively as possible, please include the following information.

NAME: Lauren Wood
HOME ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE: 1401 Porter St Apartment 521 Baltimore, MD 21230 PHONE NUMBER: 410-610-9561

Hello,

I am emailing to express my support of House Bill 17, especially sections 14-3B-04 and 14-3B-05.

Please explain if there is anything else that I can do to express my support.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lauren Wood

Cox, Dan Delegate

From: Nadine Zsebenyi <nadine.zsebenyi@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 12:40 PM
To: Cox, Dan Delegate
Cc: Bagnall, Heather Delegate; Barron, Erek Delegate; Belcastro, Lisa Delegate; Bhandari, Harry Delegate; Carr, Alfred Delegate; Charles, Nick Delegate; Chisholm, Brian Delegate; Cullison, Bonnie Delegate; Hill, Terri Delegate; Johnson, Steve Delegate; Kelly, Ariana Delegate; Kerr, Ken Delegate; Kipke, Nicholaus Delegate; Krebs, Susan Delegate; Lewis, Robbyn Delegate; Morgan, Matt Delegate; Pena-Melnyk, Joseline Delegate; Pendergrass, Shane Delegate; Reilly, Teresa Delegate; Rosenberg, Samuel Delegate; Saab, Sid Delegate; Sample-Hughes, Sheree Delegate; Szeliga, Kathy Delegate; Young, Karen Delegate
Subject: HB 17

To whom it may concern:

I urge you to support HB 17 and return Maryland to a state of democracy. I wonder that this bill is even needed and that the input from the public over the strength and consequences of our response to a virus was not sought previously. The experts do not agree on the best approach to take on this issue. Having all the decisions made by one un-elected body is wrong, unconstitutional, and a threat to the very spirit of democracy. I urge you to return to the constitution as the guiding principle, and to put your support behind this bill. Our system is one of checks and balances and yet that has failed. This bill would guarantee that we continue to have checks on unilateral power and to ensure that the citizens of Maryland keep their rights.

Governor Hogan initially declared lockdown because of the fear that our hospitals would exceed capacity, yet this has not happened. MD hospitals have not exceeded capacity. How can the closure of our local businesses, the dramatic altering of our culture and our family life, be a just price to pay for something that has never occurred?

We are mandated to wear masks everywhere we go without being told of the risks to our health by wearing them. My elderly father has COPD and religiously wears his mask everywhere he goes. He believes that he is protecting other people by wearing one, yet he is the one for whom this mandate was forced upon us. His COPD is much worse as a result. Stores do not honor his just medical disability exemption and the climate that this mask mandate creates makes it so that he does not even feel comfortable asking for one because we are told to just "wear the damned mask" This is a medical intervention that is forced upon us and one size does not fit all.

Masks were mandated because of the theory of asymptomatic spread. This risk has been reduced to below 1% and yet we the public are not allowed to make our own decisions about our health. <https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.25.21.2000903> For every action there are consequences. We are not thinking of the consequences of applying these mandates to our children. A recent German study detailed the harm that mask wearing inflicts upon children. [German child/mask study](#) Doesn't this finding in combination with the new understanding of the risks of asymptomatic spread warrant further investigation and evaluation? Yet where is the will to do so if there are not checks and balances?

Are masks themselves even effective in reducing the spread? This study, <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/m20-6817> a large randomized controlled study, did not find a statistically relevant lower incidence of Covid-19 for masked subjects. This is real world data, yet our policies seem to be driven by studies focusing on aerosol spread or on what happens to hamsters in cages. The Danish

study was of real people in real life situations, why is it ignored because the conclusions aren't convenient with what has become conventional wisdom? I did not think that was how either science or government was supposed to work.

This past year we have been told not to hug, not to go to church, we have been told which of us is essential and which of us is not, and we have been deprived of earning a living accordingly. The data does not support these measures and we need a government that is responsive to science and not to trends. If these measures worked why isn't there a greater level of success for those states and counties that have adopted these measures as opposed to the ones who left health decisions up to their citizens?

Through HB 17, Maryland has the opportunity to lead the way forward to a renewal of the democratic process and the protection of our constitutional rights. Please support this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Nadine Zsebenyi
6522 Redgate Circle
Baltimore, MD 21228

Good evening,

The purpose of this email is to show my support of House Bill 17. I am a parent, an essential frontline registered nurse and resident of Anne Arundel County and am requesting that the Governor's executive emergency order be revoked and all future emergency orders follow the proposed recommendations provided in the proposed House Bill 17 to limit the duration of those future executive orders and to require legislative approval as a way to protect our constitutional rights. The governor and county executive have used their power to arbitrarily and indefinitely keep our businesses and schools closed as well as have taken away our choice and personal decision as to how best to protect ourselves and our loved ones. As the positivity rates they've based the continued 300 + day emergency order on are now determined to be based on flawed testing according to the WHO, the order and the power extended to the county executives needs to end and in the future needs to be held in check by our state legislators.

Sincerely and thank you for your efforts!

Michele Rowley, RN
Anne Arundel County resident and public school parent

300 Gold Brush Way
Pasadena, MD 21122
Sent from my iPhone

Cox, Dan Delegate

From: Michael Hodge <michael.w.hodge1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 11:35 PM
To: Cox, Dan Delegate
Cc: Bagnall, Heather Delegate; Barron, Erek Delegate; Belcastro, Lisa Delegate; Bhandari, Harry Delegate; Carr, Alfred Delegate; Charles, Nick Delegate; Chisholm, Brian Delegate; Cullison, Bonnie Delegate; Hill, Terri Delegate; Johnson, Steve Delegate; Kelly, Ariana Delegate; Kerr, Ken Delegate; Kipke, Nicholaus Delegate; Krebs, Susan Delegate; Lewis, Robbyn Delegate; Morgan, Matt Delegate; Pena-Melnyk, Joseline Delegate; Pendergrass, Shane Delegate; Reilly, Teresa Delegate; Rosenberg, Samuel Delegate; Saab, Sid Delegate; Sample-Hughes, Sheree Delegate; Szeliga, Kathy Delegate; Young, Karen Delegate
Subject: [Possible Spam] Testimony for HB17

Delegate Dan Dox,

Please accept this testimony for the HB17 bill.

I support the Consent of Govern Act which has been laid out for a vote. This is the best first step in ending all lockdown measures and removing government from the lives and wallets of its citizens. The executive actions by our Governor go beyond what is reasonable and infringes on our constitutional rights.

The governments job is to protect life, liberty and property equally without overthrowing one to provide for the other. Governor Hogan's response to the coronavirus pandemic has impeded on all three . His executive orders to close and limit businesses has stripped property away from his constituents. Business owners have been reduced in revenue, profits and the ability grown one's establishment. Employees have been laid off and forced onto welfare programs. As of today, there are 45,000 Marylanders (my wife being one of them) that have been laid off due to the impacts of COIVD-19 that cannot gain access to the unemployment benefits they pay into. If the government takes property away from citizens, it must pay a fair wage for it. Residents are having to wait months on end to be paid for their property being taken away. Businesses are forced to accept PPP Loans or grants that contain stipulations on how the money can be used. This is not a reasonable and fair transaction. In fact, it is the opposite. It is theft and extortion. Governor Hogan's lockdown measures have forced businesses to close. This includes restraints on entertainment venues, parks and other social gathering places. These measures have forced people to remain home feeling isolated. This has led to an iincrease in drug overdose, suicide and depression. Citizens with medical problems such as cancer, lung disease, Alzheimer's and diabetes had to forego treatment. Governor Hogan's executive orders have curbed elected procedures critical to the health and wellbeing of his constituents. These actions have led to the loss of life. By attempting to save some lives he as condemned others. The definition of Liberty is the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life and behavior. Governor Hogan's executive orders have violated the liberty of the residents of the State of Maryland. Churches have been closed or limited and entertainment and social establishments have been closed or limited. All these actions were meant to remove one's liberty in a distorted effort to preserve life.

All of the examples provided are a violation of the 14th amendment. Simplified terms: All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

We were not given any due process. With little warning our right to life, liberty and property were taken away in the name of science. The efforts by our Governor, mayors and other elected officials are inexcusable.

In addition to the examples that I have outlined above, here are other important factors to take into consideration:

- The Covid-19 mortality rate for Maryland residents under 70 years old is 0.2%, approximately equivalent to seasonal influenza. Asymptomatic infections, the majority of Covid-19 cases, [have a contagion rate under 1%](#). Maintaining a State of Emergency is no longer warranted
- The only wide-scale randomized controlled study conducted on mask use [found no reduction in Covid-19 among masked subjects](#)
- States and countries which have locked down and 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

In closing, I believe that our constitutional rights outweigh a health crisis. Our rights will far outlast any virus. Our county is full of brave men and women who have given their lives in the name of freedom. We do them disservice by taking away those freedoms for the sake of life. Our State is better than this. Our people are better than this. Our elected officials need to be better than this. Thank you for your time, understanding and communication regarding this matter.

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Thank you,

Michael W Hodge
301-524-8649
1201 Conestoga Ct.
Mt. Airy, MD. 21771
michael.w.hodge1@gmail.com

Cox, Dan Delegate

From: Mehrtash Olson <mehrtash.olson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 11:10 AM
To: Cox, Dan Delegate
Subject: Re: House Bill 17 - The Emergency Powers Limitations (Consent of the Governed Act)

12 Eton Overlook, Rockville, MD 20850

:)

On Tue, Jan 26, 2021 at 11:08 AM Cox, Dan Delegate <Dan.Cox@house.state.md.us> wrote:

Mehrtash,

Would you please send me your address... or at least the name of your town or county? Many thanks for your testimony and your support.

Sallie

From: Mehrtash Olson [mailto:mehrtash.olson@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 11:08 PM
To: Cox, Dan Delegate <Dan.Cox@house.state.md.us>
Subject: House Bill 17 - The Emergency Powers Limitations (Consent of the Governed Act)

Dear Delegate Cox,

Covid-19 posed an unknown, but real, threat to us last spring, and it was understandable to treat it as an emergency, at least initially.

However, the data we have accumulated since then (not just in Maryland, but around the country and, indeed, the world) has convinced me that we need to relax the restrictions we have been under.

When Florida eased its restrictions, its rates of illness did not soar, and its social and economic health improved. California, on the other hand, imposed the most severe restrictions of all American states on its population, crippling its economy, causing residents to flee the state -- and their cases went through the roof. Many other places across the globe have likewise clearly demonstrated that tighter restrictions ultimately had no difference in effect on health statistics than more relaxed approaches.

Maryland residents -- our school children and our businesses -- have experienced severe, perhaps unprecedented strain for far longer than necessary, given the actual risk. I hope HB 17 will help ensure that something like this never happens again.

Businesses need to be completely unfettered. Children need to enter school buildings, and be done with this distance learning that is depressing the kids and causing grades to drop. Places of worship should be accessible to all. People should be permitted to gather in homes and anyplace else. We can trust citizens to make responsible health choices according to their individual risk.

The alarming tone of media reporting, the months of masking and distancing, have succeeded in creating an irrational fear in the population, and we will continue to suffer from this for some time. It is one thing for the Governor to ask school districts to open; it is another thing to convince frightened teachers to return to their classrooms after all of us have been told continuously for more than 10 months that the sky is falling. We'll see what happens in September.

I could spend a lot of time crying over spilled milk, but what good would that do? The important thing is to support HB 17 and attempt to move forward with our lives. We need this dose of common sense in governance.

Thank you for your efforts, Delegate Cox.

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