

Cox, Dan Delegate

From: Rachel Grogan <rachelgroganubam@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 8:47 AM
To: 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; Cox, Dan Delegate
Subject: [Possible Spam] HB17

I strongly oppose HB17!

Key factors:

- 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

Best regards,
Rachel Grogan

Cox, Dan Delegate

From: Nicki Mohr <mohrnicki@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 6:37 PM
To: Cox, Dan Delegate
Subject: Written testimony for HB-17

My name is Nicki Mohr. I live in Westminster Maryland. 21157.

I'm writing to urge you to stand with HB-17.

What's happening in our state right now is wrong. Anybody that's been paying attention can see that. I could go on and on about the school children that are suffering. My niece who is an a student now struggling not to fail.

My friends children who are in tears regularly.

I could go on about the issues. People being discriminated against because they can't wear the mask. But I think that the constitution tops it all!

Both the United States and Maryland Constitution's are being violated. This cannot continue.

So again I urge you to stand for our constitution and stand for your constituents. Everyone has the right to make their own educated decisions on how they want to live their lives.

Thank you
Nicki Mohr

Cox, Dan Delegate

From: Zoe Zsebenyi <zoe.zsebenyi@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 1:14 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, Nicholas 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: Testimony in Favor of HB 17

To whom it may concern,

I am a homeschooling highschool senior living in Catonsville, Maryland, and I strongly support this bill. From the beginning, these health measures taken because of Covid-19 have been very top down, without much room for dissenting voices to make themselves heard. Also from the beginning, the pandemic response has been very split along party lines, which has done a very good job of turning this from a health issue into a political one where it's Democrats versus Republicans without any sort of middle ground. Instead, we should put aside party politics, and look at these issues only from the perspective of doing what's best for Maryland. There is no doubt in my mind, or in the minds of a huge number of health experts in the United States and around the world, that the lockdowns have done more harm than good. The lockdown strategy has been devastating on so many fronts. Small businesses have folded in huge numbers, unemployment is shockingly high, and death tolls from suicide and drug overdoses are through the roof. Lockdowns haven't even significantly lowered the risk of hospitalization or death from Covid-19, as the numbers remain pretty steady across the country regardless of how strict or otherwise a state's lockdown measures were or are. Furthermore, Maryland hospitals have not exceeded capacity over the past year, even though the fear that hospitals would be overwhelmed was a fundamental premise for both declaring and maintaining the state of emergency because of the coronavirus and the lockdowns.

The mask mandates have also been unneeded and unhelpful. The only wide-scale randomized controlled study conducted on mask use found no reduction in the spread of Covid-19 among masked versus unmasked individuals. Many other studies conducted in real life conditions have also found this to be the case and some have even found that the risk of disease is greater when wearing a cloth face mask as opposed to no face mask. Even if masks did work, the mask mandates were put in place because of the fear of asymptomatic spread. Thankfully, asymptomatic infections, which are the majority of Covid-19 cases, have a contagion rate under 1%, which is such a miniscule risk that mask mandates are unnecessary, and, given the fact that masks don't provide a significant amount of protection and can even increase one's risk of getting sick, counterproductive. All mask mandates have really done is to divide an already divided country even further.

On top of that, the risk of dying from Covid-19 is tiny. For people under the age of 70, the risk of dying from Covid-19 is 0.2%, which is equivalent to the risk posed by seasonal flu. Are we going to change the way we have always dealt with illness, and start shutting down every winter because of the flu? This bill is essential to maintaining democracy, and will give the public a voice in such matters so that will hopefully not happen. The lockdowns were implemented to prevent our hospital systems from being overwhelmed by Covid-19 patients, which was thankfully never a problem here. The mask mandates were put in place to prevent asymptomatic

spread, but the risk of asymptomatic spread is almost nonexistent, and masks don't work anyway. Lockdowns and mask mandates are not helpful and are instead unnecessarily restrictive, and must end.

Please support this bill. All of the precautions put in place because of Covid-19, while implemented with the intent to do good, are now causing harm while not alleviating any risk posed by Covid-19. Back when all of this was first starting we didn't know that, but we know now. Please give us back our freedoms and our future, and support HB 17.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this very important matter.
Zoe Zsebenyi

Cox, Dan Delegate

From: Happel Kolakoski <happelyhealthy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 4:40 PM
To: Cox, Dan Delegate
Subject: Vote YES on HB17

Dear Dan Cox and Committee,

Thank you for your time and dedication to the people of Maryland. We so appreciate you being OUR voice!

I'm asking you to please vote YES on HB 17 as it's important to have checks and balances on both sides. My eyes have been opened wide to how necessary that is since the emergency began back in March.

I had expected to see friends, family and neighbors getting sick and dying, but that hasn't happened. More importantly, 99.78% of our population are surviving. Death rates since 2017 haven't changed; we're still at 0.9%, so why are we under an emergency? Most importantly, we've lost touch with our representatives and you are our only voice in the house. We're praying that you have OUR best interest at heart.

Unfortunately, it was difficult to reach our representatives and share our concerns and hardships. So many are suffering and it's not from covid. Monthly, I hear stories from friends that another one of their children's friends had committed suicide. There is so much despair.

Why are hospitals receiving benefits that would encourage a covid diagnosis or death. Incentives of \$13,000 for a covid diagnosis and \$39,000 for a covid death?!

I've heard that The WHO has concern regarding how many false positives have occurred and that now the cycling will be reduced. It's my understanding that any cold or disease can be picked up when cycling the PCR test above 30. Many labs won't even disclose what level they're cycling. Practitioners won't offer a flu test any more?!

Most importantly, the legislative session was reduced last year and there's less than 3 months to cover all of the new issues that have risen because of covid. We did not have representation during the emergency and this is the most important reason for passing HB17.

Thank you so much for your consideration!

Virginia Kolakoski
21401

"I am only one; still, I am one. I cannot do everything, still I can do something."
Mother Teresa~

Cox, Dan Delegate

From: Tori m <tbyrd14@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 1:51 PM
To: Cox, Dan Delegate
Subject: Support for Bill HB17-Taking a chance to be heard

Good afternoon to all,

I am taking the time to write in hopes my small voice can be heard. **I very avidly support Bill HB17.** Mainly due to any chance this bill can make sure we are not mandated to wear a face muzzle or more importantly receive an experimental/ newly marketed vaccine. I will never take that vaccine. None of my kids will nor will I send them to school wearing a mask. The past year was like living in the twilight zone where everything was just ASS BACKWARDS. It hasn't gotten much better this month. Please be the voice of reason that Marylanders need. Please. So many more unspoken voices are counting out our local governments and State reps to make a change that we need. There is no reason to be part of a darker agenda, be part of the light and path back to freedom and love. There is a path and you have the support, trust me.

I am a MD born and bred citizen. I am a Mom of 4, soon to be 5. I am so very concerned for my children's future. I will be making more steps to voice my concerns starting at these local levels as that's all we can do. I am EXTREMELY more concerned about the American citizens loosing their Constitutional rights than I am about Covid. You and your families should be too. Think for the future, not for the selfless now. We human beings are not meant to live for this Earth. So please, be considerate in the decision making and support Bills that do not infringe on our very nature to just simply live here peacefully whilst making our own choices for our families health.

HB17 would also protect citizens by prohibiting any emergency order issued under this title from:

- Requiring citizens to close or limit businesses, churches, or schools under certain circumstances
- Requiring an American citizen to stay at home
- Require that an American citizen wear a face covering, receive a vaccine, or be forced under penalty of law to make certain health decisions

Our reasoning:

- 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 (look at CA!)
- 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 or come close to exceeding capacity in the state of Maryland over the past year. Concern that critical Covid cases would exceed hospital capacity was a fundamental premise for declaring and maintaining the state of emergency

Thank you for anyone who took the time to read,

Victoria Millsaps

Cox, Dan Delegate

From: Terry Finch <terryfinch537@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 5:44 PM
To: Cox, Dan Delegate
Subject: HB 17

I support House Bill 17- the "Consent Of The Governed Act".

Mrs. Terry Finch
2168 Misty Meadow Road
Finksburg, MD. 21048
Sent from my iPhone

Cox, Dan Delegate

From: Suzanne @ MDM <wyzmom@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 5:17 PM
To: Cox, Dan Delegate
Subject: SUPPORT HB17

Dear Delegate Cox & Committee,

Many here in Maryland felt helpless over the last year with little to no representation. We watched our churches, small businesses and restaurants go on lock down while big corporate America the likes of Target and Walmart, liquor and pot dispensaries remained open for all who cared to frequent them. Never once did anyone at Target have a person standing guard counting entrants, but a shop on Main Street owned by the little guy could only have 2 shoppers inside at a time.

From county to county depending on the political party of the Co Ex running that region depended on what freedoms remained or what freedoms were taken from the constituents.

With a high recovery rate, faulty testing and a lead doctor changing his mind like the wind, devastation occurred across the United States.

From the CDC website for recovery percentages of COVID in US:

0-19: 99.997%
20-49: 99.98%
50-69: 99.5%
70-over: 94.6%

No one focused on these recovery percentages, no one focused on preventative care, no one focused on the negative and great harm our society suffered and continues to from this highly politically motivated and driven event. How many teens have committed suicide in Maryland this year compared to years past? Many have noticed that the overall death count is lower this year than in the past 10 years if compared.

Testing has been proven completely unreliable, lock downs are ineffective just look at Florida or South Dakota. How to handle a health scare in Event201 was discussed/strategized in the year 2019 via Hopkins/CDC/WHO and still we weren't ready. Please refer to the newest mood swing by the WHO in regard to herd immunity: https://www.theepochtimes.com/who-changes-definition-of-herd-immunity_3659658.html

People in Maryland want choices for our lives and our health. People who are venerable or afraid should stay home, the rest of us want our lives back. We need people representing We The People who are looking out for the collective good, not pushing agendas. A state of emergency should end when there is no longer a threat. Larry Hogan and his County Executives have played politics with our lives and we ask you hold him/them accountable with a system of checks and balances.

I wholeheartedly support the passing of House Bill 17 and ask you to do as well,
Thank you to Dan Cox and his insightful view of representing the silent majority of us Marylanders.

Suzanne Duffy
21401

#BeNotAfraid

Sue Ann West FAV HB17 TESTIMONY

Please vote **FOR** HB17 Consent of the Governed.

While this bill is written to “limit *existing* emergency powers”, it is critical and pertinent to point out that Governor Hogan’s mandates are only ‘purported to exist’. His mandates are in fact illegitimate precisely because they violate the Maryland Constitution Articles 4, 8, 24,36 and Maryland Declaration of Rights Article 44 (supportive reasoning cited below). Moreover, by issuing falsely-premised mandates, Mr. Hogan has in fact nullified his own position, to the extent that his taxpayer-funded salary should be withheld ! He truly no longer deserves to be referenced as Governor. His rightful title is and should be ‘Former’ Governor Hogan. Nonetheless, this limit-setting bill, therefore, is the very **least** action that should be taken against illegitimately-instituted, unquestionably-tyrannical, and power-abusive ‘orders’.

Furthermore: Mr. Hogan has also ***grossly-betrayed the trust of Marylanders***, by continually failing to ***lift*** life-altering, dream-destroying restrictions that he shamefully-led ***obliging and good-hearted citizens to believe would last only two weeks !*** Confining the duration of his repugnant disloyalty is absolutely in order, therefore, to reduce the resulting-treachery he has given NO indication of stopping.

Mr. Hogan’s ill-born ‘mandates’ have, indeed, inflicted insidious harm and destruction to the lives and businesses of those who ***heartbreakingly and faithfully trusted him enough to put him in office***, as follows:

He has falsely imprisoned people in their own homes.

He has wrongfully denied people the right to travel.

He has wrongfully denied people the right to assemble.

He has wrongfully declared certain businesses to be non-essential and to cease operations.

He has denied religious liberty.

He has violated the separation of church and state by interfering and harassing those who desire to practice their religion.

He has unlawfully, even ***abusively***, ordered the wearing of face masks, which, heretofore, have been socially-treated and perceived as the attire of sexual perverts and/or thieves.....indeed, the dregs of society.

He has unlawfully ordered people to physically separate from each other.

He has pretended to make laws with NO constitutional authority.

He has denied those with loved ones in nursing homes or in hospitals from visiting and caring for their relatives.

He has caused economic disaster to countless families and individuals.

He has ordered police to violate their oath of loyalty to the constitution and the rule of law by trying to make their allegiance to himself personally, rather than to the constitution.

He has committed all these atrocities against citizenry he had an obligation, a trust and a duty, to protect and defend.

And, he has continued to perpetrate these atrocities despite evidence published by CDC and well-respected, well-credentialed physicians and health experts...who collectively today indicate ***a pandemic did not and does not exist.***

In all this, Mr. Hogan has put forth fraudulent, fallacious and continually-delusive ‘emergency’ mandates in a manner contrary to the *trust* Marylanders extended to him. We the people expected him to conduct himself with integrity. We expected him to govern with our consent. He has failed, epically, on both counts. Like a horrible, obnoxious bully, he has broken and smashed the ‘social contract’ citizens made with him...one in which they had indeed extended to him their highest and most sacred trust. And all he did was trash that trust, worse than any other governor in Maryland’s entire history.

For these reasons, I call upon legislators to vote **FOR** HB17 to limit Mr. Hogan, and any future governor, from being allowed to not only inflict such inexcusable injury and abuse to the people of Maryland, but to *never again allow such an insidious breach of trust.*

Thank you for your time and consideration on HB17.

SueAnn West
595 Pinewood Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401
443-223-4215

Cox, Dan Delegate

From: Shannan Finch Hidey <shannanfinch@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 9:56 AM
To: Cox, Dan Delegate
Subject: Support of House Bill 17

To whom this may concern:

I am in full support of the House Bill 17- the Consent of the Governed Act. I am one of a massive number of Marylanders who have watched our freedoms be trampled and stripped away as our government forgets that it was established by the people and for the people. For the sake of my children and future generations, I firmly believe that now is the time to stand up and keep over governor and those in power in check. They must be held accountable. Thank you for introducing this bill.

Thank you,
Shannan Hidey
Carroll County, MD

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Shannan Finch Hidey
410.596.5808
ShannanFinch@gmail.com

Honorable Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

I'm writing today to submit my testimony in support of House Bill 17 - The Emergency Powers Limitations (Consent of the Governed Act). My enthusiastic support for this bill and my hope that the Committee votes to move it forward cannot be overstated.

It has become clear in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic that the current laws defining when and how a state of emergency is declared, carried out, and rescinded, are woefully inadequate and must be amended.

When Governor Hogan first issued the order to enact the state of emergency early last year, no one knew how virulent the virus was or how it would impact our communities. As that data has become available and increasingly clear, Governor Hogan and many other Governors across the country have not appropriately responded to that information. Maryland Covid-19 cases have never exceeded hospital capacity or threatened critical disruption of hospital care; and while the potential to overwhelm hospital capacity was the initial premise for the state of emergency, the goal posts Governor Hogan has cited as justification for the sustained state of emergency have moved repeatedly without legislative intervention or oversight.

It's now clear that Covid-19 has a real mortality rate within the range of other common upper respiratory pathogens for the majority of people under age 70 (people of all ages with confounding health conditions have always been uniquely vulnerable to common pathogens). It's clear that the negative health impacts of strict lockdowns and mandates, implemented without legislative consideration or oversight under the state of emergency, supersede the effects of Covid-19. Catastrophic economic impacts directly cause negative health outcomes such as increased child and spousal abuse, substance abuse, mental illness, depression and suicide, and lack of access to healthcare for other problems. The impact of draconian lockdowns on children and young adults especially, while clearly devastating, has yet to be fully assessed.

Had Covid-19 been as virulent as Ebola and/or as contagious as measles, the provisions of HB17, had they been articles of law in early 2020, would still have allowed for sweeping measures to contain any degree of pandemic or other catastrophe. However, the more drastic the measures, the more important is swift but careful consideration and oversight by the entire legislature, including consideration of when and how such restrictions should be lifted when and if they confer no benefit to citizens.

The scope of the Covid-19 response is no longer appropriate to the real facts and impacts of the crisis. It is the responsibility of the HGO Committee, the Maryland legislature, and citizens to correct this imbalance, and HB17 provides a measured and constitutional path to achieve this outcome while safeguarding against future missteps in the face of modest challenges or great catastrophes.

Please support HB17, so that Maryland citizens can rebuild and restore the infrastructure and shared values which have historically made this state a wonderful place for residents to thrive.

Thank you,

Sarah Dillingham
Silver Spring, MD 20901 (Congressional District 8, Legislative District 20)
sarahbethdillingham@gmail.com
443-799-1168

Cox, Dan Delegate

From: tbeauchard <tbeauchard@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 10:47 AM
To: Cox, Dan Delegate
Cc: Renaud Beauchard
Subject: Testimony in favor of HB 17 - Consent of the Governed Act

Dear Representative Cox,

My name is Tamara Beauchard. I am a resident of University Park, Maryland in Prince George's County.

My life, my husband's life and the lives of my children have been severely and negatively impacted by the draconian measures that were instituted in the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic crisis. We had little information about this disease in March of 2020 and, as a family, we were perfectly understanding of the response of our state and local government. We were told that we needed several weeks for the hospitals to prepare for a massive influx of patients for a disease that had a 3% fatality rate.

As we near a full year of lock-down and public health mandates, we have learned:

- 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

My children, ages 12 and 9, were deprived of 4 months of education from March-June 2020 as their school struggled to continue their education. Both of my sons attend a private Catholic school called Saint Jerome Academy in Hyattsville that, until the Covid-19 lockdowns, focused on human contact and the camaraderie of a shared education and spiritual journey. The children did not use computers in school and were not required to use them for their work. Now, my children spend 5+ hours per day in front of a screen on the days that they attend class by Zoom.

Amid the confusion of transition to such intense screen time, we discovered that my older son was suddenly exposed to highly adult material. It is simply impossible to monitor all of a child's screen time when they are required to spend so much time in front of a computer.

My youngest son was in 3rd grade at the time and has suffered such extreme set-backs with basic math skills, that we have to pay a private tutor to bring him up to speed on the basics that he lost during those months.

Though my children are now in a hybrid program in their school (which started in late August 2020), they are only able to attend school in-person 2 days per week. They are required to wear masks all day long and can not see any children other than the 15 in their classroom. They eat lunch in their room and do not have recess.

My husband and I have sacrificed and struggled to afford private school tuition. We are incredibly grateful to the courage of our school leaders for working to get the children in school, in person for even those couple of days. However, you can imagine our disappointment at such a reduced and limited educational and social environment.

Our children's school struggles constantly against the heavy-handed demands of the Prince George's Health Department. In fact, just last week, the health department told our school principal that he should stop allowing in-person education because the rate of infections were increasing county-wide. Our principal has taken a brave stance against this request and kept the doors open. But for how long?

My husband and I have experienced incredible hardships professionally because we must sit with our children three days a week while they "attend" school on-line. It would be unconscionable for us to set our children in front of a computer screen and to walk away. As my husband and I are both self-employed, this has negatively impacted our businesses and resulted in a significant loss of income. It has also created a great deal of stress and tension in our family and our marriage as we have been forced to create a school-house and place of work in the narrow confines of our small home.

Finally, my children have suffered bullying and shunning by neighborhood children who claim to be more "Covid conscious" than them. My sons have been required to walk with a 6 foot stick between themselves and other children. They have been shunned for "not social distancing properly". To clarify, they do follow the local guidelines for health safety, this is a question of certain people expecting a more rigid response to the state guidelines for masking and distancing than required. My sons have been told that they are dirty and diseased by neighborhood children. The mandates issued by leaders have a direct and significant impact on their psychological well-being on all of us but they fall hardest on the youngest members of our community.

I am in full support of your efforts to pass HB 17 - Consent of the Governed Act. Your staff may reach me for more details of my testimony if they desire.

Thank you for your efforts.

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Tamara Beauchard