

HB1371 WITHDRAW

Dear Committee Members,

My initial reaction was to support this bill. But that would validate the false premise that the government can close our churches any time they choose due to an "emergency." This bill is unnecessary and should be withdrawn, since the freedom to practice religion is already stipulated in the Maryland (and U.S. Constitutions). If you took the oath of office, you promised to abide by both Constitutions. Article 44 of the Declaration of Rights of the Maryland Constitution specifically, says, "That the provisions of the Constitution of the United States, and of this State, apply, as well 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." Therefore no health emergency can be used as an excuse to allow our 1st amendment freedoms to be cast aside!! I understand and greatly appreciate what the bill sponsors are trying to do; they are trying to prevent the unconstitutional "mandates" that occurred due to COVID. This SHOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN AGAIN. These 1st amendment provisions are already clearly spelled out and need to be adhered to. As long as we do that, this bill is unnecessary. Thank you.

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