



The Institute for Forensic Psychology

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Date: 19 July 2022
To: Montgomery County Council
Re: Bill 21-22

As a police psychologist, firearms instructor, and MD Wear and Carry permit holder for over 20 years, I am very concerned about County Council bill 21-22, which would effectively negate the recent US Supreme Court decision affirming the right of law-abiding citizens to carry a firearm in public. As a police psychologist I have received threats over the years related to my work; I have also studied criminal behavior. As a firearms instructor I transport firearms to and from classes and the range and have witnessed firsthand over the past 25 years just how serious the average citizen who desires to possess a firearm is with regard to its use and safety in general. I have been comforted by the fact that I have the option to carry a firearm to protect myself and my family when out and about, and I have been proud of my fellow law-abiding citizens' clear desire to do the right thing with regard to the possession and use of a firearm.

I would remind Council members that, in general, concealed carry permit holders across the United States are far more law abiding than those who do not possess a permit. CCW permit holders do NOT commit crime; rather, law-abiding citizens who have the ability to defend themselves STOP crimes from occurring hundreds of times every day in the US, in most cases without firing a shot. Since criminals routinely ignore laws, these events would more frequently end in victimization of the law-abiding if we do not have the means to defend ourselves. If passed, not only would bill 21-22 deprive law-abiding citizens of the right to defend themselves and their families, but it would make anyone who is legally permitted to carry a firearm elsewhere in Maryland a criminal in Montgomery County. Expecting W&C permit holders to stop, unload their firearms before crossing the Montgomery County line, and store the firearm in a lock box is not only unrealistic, but also *unsafe*.

In addition, given Maryland's stringent background checks and training requirements, it is even less likely that a Marylander who legally carries a firearm would use it inappropriately or unlawfully. I respectfully ask that you re-consider bill 21-22 and not eliminate my right, and the right of other law-abiding citizens, to defend ourselves. I would be happy to discuss this matter with the Council as a whole, or with any members who might wish speak with me about this important topic.

Thank you.

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