

My name is J.W. and I am a resident of Montgomery County. Bill 21-22 is blatantly unconstitutional and directly infringes on my right to self-defense. I was in the United States Army Infantry for ten years and am a combat veteran. I have more training than most police officers, yet this bill would prevent me from carrying a firearm in public for protection. Because of my extensive military training, I am an asset to society. If any of you were in a mass shooting scenario, you would want me there with a gun to save you. I do not trust the police to protect me or my wife in one of these situations. In most cases, mass shootings are over and the damage is already done before police can arrive. And even if police do arrive in time, I do not want to have to hope and pray they possess the courage to act, unlike the police officers in Uvalde. Furthermore, this bill will not stop criminals from carrying guns. That's why they're called criminals, because they break the law. If a criminal wants to carry out a mass shooting, then they are going to do it anyway and this bill will not stop them. This bill will only affect the law-abiding citizens. It will strip them of their right to protect themselves and their families. All law-abiding citizens can be assets to society. The solution is to properly train and equip them, not to strip them of their right to carry a firearm so that they are left defenseless against criminals. On July 17, 2022, an armed bystander shot a mass shooter who opened fire in a mall in Indiana. If it wasn't for this responsible citizen, the criminal would have killed many others. There are countless other examples of armed law-abiding citizens taking down mass shooters and thereby saving many lives while waiting for police to arrive. Do not let the recent sensationalizing of shootings in the media make you feel like you have to pass laws to make it look like you care enough to do something. This bill is nothing more than an emotional reaction to NYSRPA v. Bruen and it will not stand up in court. This bill does not pass the history and traditions test for constitutionality established by the Supreme Court in NYSRPA v. Bruen. You're going about it the wrong way. Focus on keeping guns out of the hands of criminals and keeping them in the hands of law-abiding citizens, the assets of society. That's the solution. I urge you not to pass Bill 21-22. It will cost lives, not save them. Thank you for your consideration.