

January 22, 2024

To the Montgomery County Council:

I am a long-time resident of Kensington, MD, and I write in support of Bill 45-23 (“Property Tax Credit: Individuals 65 and Above, Retired Military Service Members, and Disabled Military Service Members”).

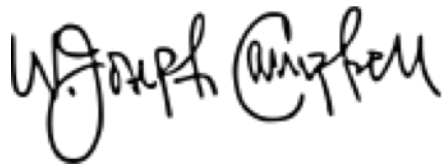
The measure has the virtues of being timely, worthy, and much-needed, as a way to ease tax burdens on other seniors and retired service members.

The bill would be improved were it to lower the residence-eligibility requirement to 20 years (from the proposed and somewhat arbitrary 25 years). Doing so would acknowledge that two decades of unbroken home ownership represents an unequivocal commitment to county and to local community.

Such a modification would appropriately expand the reach of the bill, enhancing the prospects that more Montgomery County seniors will be able to remain in place, in residences they acquired long before becoming senior citizens.

A modest revision to the residence-eligibility requirement would represent a much-welcome reduction in tax burdens for additional seniors and, as such, be an important fine-tuning of a bill that otherwise is commendable and deserving of the Council’s support.

My sincere thanks for the Council’s consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "W. Joseph Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "W" and "C".

W. Joseph Campbell, PhD