

Freedom to Leave Act (2-24)

The last time I came before you, it was stated by some of this distinguished council that the then proposal for the STEP Act may violate our state constitution. I suggested to you let the state tell us that we cannot do it. I thank you for taking it up with the state, and Attorney General Brown has found, several components of the STEP act are, in fact, not in compliance with state law. We, as a county, will not override the laws of the State of Maryland. We are a nation of laws, and I respect and support that.

And now we, as a nation of laws, also have laws of a higher authority, the Constitution of the United States. In that body of laws, we find what we know as the fourth amendment, incorporated in the original Bill of Rights, protects the people of America, from unreasonable searches. Imagine those citizens having their homes ransacked, their persons searched; and for no reason other than someone's misplaced suspicion whether based upon race, ethnicity, or the arrogant idea they can do so simply because they know they can get away with doing so. This document we know as the Bill of Rights, was established to create restraints on government from their treatment of its citizens. Police officers, asking people to waive their federal rights, is nothing more than a fishing expedition, looking for a crime where in most cases, none exists. It's nothing more than "stop and frisk" on feet or in vehicles.

Previously, you raised your concerns regarding the idea of violating Maryland's state constitution, I call on you now to stop government, in the identity of our police departments, from tricking the residents of Montgomery County from cancelling their U. S. federal government rights, whether residents are aware or unaware of their rights.

This should be obvious and easy and a "no-brainer." You can protect police practice of the use of underhanded tricks on unsuspecting residents, or just like your concern over violating the state constitution, stop the violation of our federal constitution. Use the same deliberation you showed on the STEP Act, in voting in favor of (2-24) the Freedom to Leave Act.

Ban the police tactic of consent searches.