

**Testimony for the Montgomery County Council
July 26, 2022**

**Expedited Bill 21-22, Weapons – Firearms In or Near
Places of Public Assembly
FAVORABLE**

To Council President Albornoz and members of the Public Safety Committee,

My name is Lisa Morris. I am a volunteer with Maryland Moms Demand Action and I live in North Potomac. I am submitting written testimony in support of Expedited Bill 21-22, Weapons – Firearms In or Near Places of Public Assembly.

I have lived in Montgomery County my entire life. I am also a gun violence survivor as my life intersected with gun violence two times. I feel and believe our safety as a community and individuals/families are more at risk then ever.

The very dangerous decision made by the Supreme Court to weaken states permitting systems is already seeing ripple effect in states across the country, including in Maryland. States see that a weakened permitting system has a 13-15% increase in the rate of violent crimes. Research shows that when it is easier for people to carry guns in public, violent crime goes ups.

Montgomery County is experiencing a rise in gun violence; the last thing our county needs is guns where people gather. The increased prevalence of guns outside the home only increases the risk of violence in public places. This will further endanger the public in Montgomery county and Maryland putting families, children, individuals and law enforcement in danger in what is already a gun violence and mass shooting epidemic.

Now the burden is more then ever on state and local officials to define the spaces in our community where guns are not permitted

and to provide strong public safety and gun reform legislation to keep all of us safe from gun violence in our communities as we go about our daily lives.

I urge you and the council to pass Bill 21-22.

Thank you and the all of the council members for all you do for our county.

Lisa Morris

Volunteer

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Maryland
Chapter