

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 Alborno and members of the Public Safety Committee,

My name is Melissa Ladd. I am a volunteer with Maryland Moms Demand Action and I am a resident of Olney, and have lived in Montgomery County for 20 years. I am submitting written testimony in support of **Expedited Bill 21-22, Weapons – Firearms In or Near Places of Public Assembly**. Thank you for writing this bill in response to the misguided decision of the Supreme Court.

The breadth of studies on concealed carry permitting show that when permitting restrictions are eased, the rate of violent crime increases. A 2019 Study from Journal of Empirical Legal Studies shows that “RTC (Right to Carry) laws are associated with 13–15 percent *higher* aggregate violent crime rates 10 years after adoption”.¹ Also, the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health research indicates that “By years 7 through 10 following the adoption of a RTC law, violent crime rates were 11% to 14% higher than predicted had such laws not been in place.”² From a study by Duke University we learn that “increases in violent gun crime (29 percent), gun robbery (32 percent), and gun theft (35 percent) following the introduction of shall-issue concealed carry permit laws.”³

We know that sensitive area prohibitions keep people safe where the risk of gun violence is elevated. Maryland law grants counties and other local authorities the power to regulate firearms in and near certain sensitive places, like those listed in this ordinance. The county must

¹ <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/jels.12219>

² <https://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-violence-prevention-and-policy/archive-2019/pdfs/concealed-carry-of-firearms.pdf>

³

https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w30190/w30190.pdf?utm_source=The+Trace+mailing+list&utm_campaign=b670a8e418-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_09_24_04_06_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f76c3ff31c-b670a8e418-112434573

do all it can to keep guns out of these sensitive locations where our children and families gather, and where we and our elected representatives take part in the democratic process.

Thank you for addressing this issue and I strongly urge you to pass Bill 21-22.

Sincerely,

Melissa Ladd

Chapter Leader

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Maryland Chapter