

William Adams

### Opposition to Bill 21-22

How any elected official may feel personally about guns is not what they are obliged to act on. As an elected official, trusted to honor the US Constitution, the Maryland Constitution, and the collective wants of their constituents, they must be true to their responsibilities and act according to the wishes of their constituents within the bounds of the US Constitution. Therefore, the only right thing to do is to reject this bill as it clearly violates the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments and is simply a dangerous bill.

Setting aside for a moment the Constitutional violations this bill presents; the question is why? Why do you feel compelled to deny a properly permitted firearm holder freedom of travel simply because they are now permitted to carry a firearm when previously there was no prohibition from doing so? Is there evidence that anyone is now in greater danger, or is it simply speculation based on some misinformed notion that gun holders are dangerous? Handgun Permit (HGP) holders in this state have complied with the rigorous training and background checks requirements to obtain a permit, and as such, are shown to be safer, law-abiding, and even-tempered individuals.

This proposed law does NOTHING to improve the safety of Maryland citizens that may reside, work, or pass through your county. As we have seen most recently at the Greenwood Park Mall in Indiana, an armed citizen legally carrying a concealed firearm stopped a mass shooter on a shooting rampage in the mall. How many more lives would have been lost had a law like Bill 21-22 is proposing been in place in this Indiana town. Bill 21-22 will prevent a legally armed citizen from responding to such an event in Montgomery County.

Anyone saying that the freedom to carry a firearm outside the home for self-defense or the protection of others is unnecessary and claiming that firearms in the public space is unsafe, is simply misinformed or ignoring the facts. If you are truly concerned about the safety of the residents, workers, and visitors to Montgomery County, please direct your energies to stopping gang crime in your county and leave the law-abiding citizens of Maryland alone.

PLEASE, reject this bill!

Sincerely,  
William Adams