

Dear Counsel Members and constituents,

I am writing in regards to Bill 21-22. Please allow me an opportunity to voice my concerns and kindly accept it for consideration. I will try to make this short and sweet.

I have lived in Montgomery County, Maryland for my whole life, except when I went to college. I am almost 42 years of age. Although I was a knucklehead growing up, I earned a Master's degree, volunteered for the fire department, am a member of a chamber of commerce, am Senior Home Safety Specialist, Client Liaison Manager and Marketing Coordinator and served on the community board of directors. Not to mention, my wife and I work hard, very hard. We have also been steadily employed our whole lives and we pay all our taxes on time.

As you make your decision, please take this into consideration, how is it fair that a criminal will be able to go to a mall with a gun, like it happened in 2016, but someone with my background has to be unarmed? Would that really make you feel safer? I live across the street from the mall. When I walk my dog, how do I know the proximity of when I am committing a crime by being 100ft of 100 people?

This approach will either force me to be unarmed, or deal with a subjective approach of a police officer. Why is it that the Supreme Court of the United States just made me, you and a lot of others like us more equal and you are voting to take that away? Please excuse me, but the laws you are considering will not make us safer.

Even if I don't carry arms, I feel a lot safer knowing that others who are responsible carry their arms. Montgomery County is a great county, but it's not in a secret bubble. Criminals are all over the place and they will not follow this law, nor will the criminals from neighboring counties who will flock here knowing how rich and unarmed our citizens are.

There have been many mass killings. The numbers are staggering. It's obvious some of you want to make guns go away. I honestly wish we could disarm all of America too, but we can't. It's ingrained in the constitution and the Supreme Court just clarified that. The law being considered will undoubtedly be challenged by many and it may end up being a very costly decision for our county. Please consider putting that time and money into schools, our infrastructure, and placing real criminals behind bars.

Please give me and other responsible citizens of Montgomery County the right and chance to defend ourselves if the unlikely, but life threatening, situation happens to arise. The elements of this law should be left up to private establishments on whether to allow or not allow arms.

It's great to require proper training and background checks. Maryland has good laws right now. Please, please, please do not create a law to punish the responsible citizens. This law can harm a responsible citizen with their lack of safety and/or having unfair legal repercussions.

Thank you for your open-mindedness and consideration. Please make that right decision and give the responsible citizens the equality that they deserve and that the rest of the country already has.

Respectfully,

Renan Augusto