

## Statement regarding Bill 21-22

Good afternoon, my name is Michele Walker. I am a native of Maryland. My husband and I have raised four children in Montgomery County since 1990. Like our parents, we taught our children to respect our country and every person in it no matter their financial or educational status. Sadly, there are those among us who do neither of those things.

Every American has the right and responsibility to defend not just themselves but their family, neighbors and other Americans whom they do not know personally. The 2nd Amendment of the United States Constitution does not restrict American Citizens from wearing and carrying their firearms. The Supreme Court has recently ruled against legislature that demands reason or need applications. The courts have ruled against many restrictions that would infringe upon our citizens rights. There's an extremely low percentage of people using firearms to commit crimes or harm to others in comparison to the number of people who own one or more firearms that do not use them for those purposes.

There are numerous cases where a law abiding gun owner saved the day as a crime was happening. Some were in convenience stores and saved the clerk or another customer from robbery and possible death. A judge in Ohio was able to save himself from a criminal who was attempting to kill the judge right outside of the courthouse. In a mall a gunman was stopped by a citizen who had a permit. None of us have the ability to know if we will be in one of those situations where a gun will be used with harmful intent but all of us would be grateful to be saved by someone who had our backs. To those who want to push gun control, close your eyes and imagine yourself in one of those situations where there is an angry or upset person with a gun. Now imagine if you have no one there to save your life because of these laws. How would you feel if your close family member were just an innocent bystander harmed or killed because of the gun control law that prevented the possibility of someone to stop it from happening? None of us are exempt from the potentiality of being harmed by people who just don't care about the law or who are out of their mind. None of us, that includes you too.

Please stop trying to unarm the law abiding citizens. We have been taught to respect the gun and use it properly. Gun control does NOT work. Look at the localities that have the strictest laws on the books and see that things have gotten progressively worse. Chicago, New York and Philadelphia are shining examples of those cities. Law abiding citizens do not have intent to go shoot up people or places. We intend to protect ourselves and those around us from others who either have criminal intent or have a mental illness. Address the real issues mentioned in the last sentence because it is not the gun, it's the person holding the gun.