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Howard County

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Howard County House Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

April 2, 2020

To the Honorable Governor of Maryland,

My fellow legislators and I wish to thank you for your outstanding leadership during this unprecedented state of emergency. Marylanders are looking to you for guidance in this challenging time. Further guidance we think is needed, when assuring the safety of Maryland's already vulnerable populations.

The ability of gun stores to remain open during this pandemic is worrisome for many Marylanders. Less than two weeks ago, a long line extended outside and around the corner of a gun store in Silver Spring. It is alarming to see Marylanders stockpiling weapons in such a state of emergency. Maryland has seen a surge in the purchase of guns and ammunition during this time of crisis.

Guns are not essential to solving this pandemic, nor will they make people safer. At this time, guns are only hurting vulnerable populations- victims of domestic violence and individuals already prone to suicide are most at risk. Marylanders are home, tensions are high, every Marylander is eager to save lives; however, gun stores remain open creating fear for our most vulnerable citizens.

Pursuant to Public Safety Article 14-303, you have the ability to close these stores. Should you choose not to close gun stores, in light of the recent directive from the federal Department of Homeland Security, we ask that you join our neighboring states and require an appointment during limited business hours, for individuals who choose to purchase guns at this time.

The increased sales of guns in recent weeks is disturbing. Marylanders need to be encouraged to fight this pandemic with hygiene and social distancing rather than with guns.

Sincerely Yours,

Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary

Delegate Heather Bagnall

Delegate Darryl Barnes

Delegate Ben Barnes

Delegate Erik Barron

Senator Sarah Elfreth

Senator Brian Feldman

Senator Guy Guzzone

Senator Shelly Hettleman

Senator Susan Lee

Senator Jim Rosapepe

Senator Will Smith

Senator Jeff Waldstriecher

Senator Mary Washington

Delegate Sandy Bartlett  
Delegate Lisa Belcastro  
Delegate Ben Brooks  
Delegate Jon Cardin  
Delegate Al Carr  
Delegate Lorig Charkoudian  
Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield  
Delegate Davis Dereck  
Delegate Fennell Diana  
Delegate Kathleen Dumais  
Delegate Eric Ebersole  
Delegate Jessica Feldmark  
Delegate Wanika Fisher  
Delegate Terri Hill  
Delegate Michael Jackson  
Delegate Anne Kaiser  
Delegate Arianna Kelly  
Delegate Marc Korman  
Delegate Carol Krimm  
Delegate Robbyn Lewis  
Delegate Jazz Lewis  
Delegate Karen Lewis-Young  
Delegate Brooke Lierman  
Delegate Lesley Lopez  
Delegate Sara Love  
Delegate Maggie McIntosh  
Delegate David Moon  
Delegate Julie Palakovich-Carr  
Delegate Edith Patterson  
Delegate Josephine Peña-Melnyk  
Delegate Shane Pendergrass  
Delegate Kirill Reznik  
Delegate Sheila Ruth  
Delegate Emily Shetty

Delegate Jared Solomon  
Delegate Jen Terrasa  
Delegate Veronica Turner  
Delegate Kris Valderrama  
Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith  
Delegate Stewart Vaughn  
Delegate Alonzo Washington  
Delegate Courtney Watson  
Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins  
Delegate Nicole Williams

cc:

Matthew Clark, Chief of Staff to the Governor  
Keiffer Mitchell, Chief Legislative Officer  
Cara Sullivan, Deputy Legislative Officer