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MIKE SHIRKEY
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER
MICHIGAN SENATE

May 11, 2020

Michigan State Capitol Commission
100 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Chairman Randall-

Thank you for your continued service to our state. The individuals who serve on the Capitol Commission do an exceptional job of preserving and operating Michigan's beautiful Capitol Building.

As one of the symbols of our state government, the Capitol Building is viewed as the people's building and as such our citizens often gather at the Capitol to demonstrate and make their voices heard. Recently, the question of whether the building should be a public facility that allows open carry of firearms has been raised. As a result, the Commission has added the topic to the agenda of its regularly scheduled meeting on May 11, 2020.

This topic has already generated much debate as it is an issue with passionate advocates on both sides. As you know, there is rarely a clear policy solution when a debate of individual liberties intersects with concerns about individual safety and security. Therefore, I write to request that the commissioners delay a formal decision at the May 11th meeting and instead commit to meeting with legislative leaders, Senate and House sergeants, and Michigan State Police to discuss the best policy going forward. The choice to allow or disallow the open carry of firearms brings with it the need for a thorough review of how the policy will be implemented and communicated to the public.

Our citizens have an expectation to freely demonstrate and redress their government at their state Capitol Building. Likewise, legislators, staff, and visitors have an expectation of personal safety and security while on the premises. A simple vote of the Commission will not be an adequate solution to this problem. We must work together to evaluate our options and develop a thoughtful policy for our workplace and our citizens.

Thank you for your consideration of my request to meet before voting on policy. I sincerely believe this is an issue that will only be further aggravated by hasty policy implementation and instead deserves thoughtful review and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Shirkey".

Mike Shirkey
Majority Leader
State Senator, 16th District