

Support HB 1378

I fully support this simple policy - it's the natural immunity that acts as protection for vulnerable individuals and helps stop the pandemic. It has long been accepted for infectious diseases, and the CDC has finally admitted that with COVID that "persons who survived a previous infection had lower case rates than persons who were vaccinated alone."

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7104e1.htm>

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/prior-covid-infection-more-protective-than-vaccination-during-delta-surge-us-2022-01-19/>

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.08.19.21262111v1.full-text>

As COVID vaccination does not prevent transmission or infection and targets an obsolete variant, there is no good reason to universally require or promote the vaccines. In fact, they do not work in children, and thus present all risk and no benefit. The more accurate UK data shows that vaccines have no effect on severity of illness and may help spread the variants.

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.02.25.22271454v1>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1058464/Vaccine-surveillance-report-week-9.pdf

The decision whether to take any vaccine must be a private, voluntary decision between healthcare providers and patients based on the individual risk/benefit profile of each patient, not on government incentives. As at least 150 clinical studies have shown with COVID, natural immunity offers robust protection often exceeding that of vaccines. Since vaccine effectiveness is measured using blood tests for antibodies, similar tests should be acceptable as proof of natural immunity. It is also the standard for other infectious diseases.

Many Marylanders have successfully recovered from the disease, including this winter. Please support HB 1378. It will help diminish the fight over employment and education mandates and let people get on with their business without being pressured over personal medical decisions.