

OPPOSE HB1084/SB840

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I would like to talk about my personal experience growing up in Hungary with respect to the proposed MyIR digital vaccine passport for displaying COVID-19 EUA vaccination information in this bill. As you know till 1990 Hungary was a socialist country. Citizens there had only limited access to products, services, information, technology as well as travel outside of the former Soviet Bloc. We could only apply for a visa to the West once every three years.

Most people know that in 1990 the Berlin Wall separating East and West Europe fell down which ended a system that brought limitations to half of Europe's citizens. Few however know that in 1989 Hungarians were on the streets peacefully protesting for more freedom and ending a socio-political system that limited people's individual rights as well as freedom to travel. I first came to the USA in 1990 after travel opened up for the citizens in the Eastern Bloc.

In the USA and in Western Europe I found a system much freer and with a wide variety of choices and I would have never imagined that in 2022 we would be talking about a digital system that keeps track of, and allows just about anyone to see an individual's health record which is a personal private information, and that based on such record, some would be limited to access certain services in Maryland. Establishing such a vaccine passport de-facto starts segregation of people in society and limits access to services. Make no mistake, this is not going to be just voluntary. This invites discrimination based on one's health choices as well as possible disabilities, turns the vaccinated and unvaccinated against each other, and turns a door-keeper at a business against its potential customers. This should never take place. Would we want to create violence in society via such pass?

Moreover, vaccine passports have failed all over the world. Washington, D.C. gave up on vaccine requirements to access businesses after 2 weeks and New York just scrapped its vaccine pass system as well. There are many reasons why these passes failed. First, Covid 19 is over. Second, the Covid 19 vaccine is not stopping transmission of Sars-COV 2, thus there is no scientific reason to institute such passport and segregate people based on that vaccine. Thirdly, such system allows for unprecedented surveillance, privacy breach, data collection and data selling, censorship, discrimination and control over people. Little tyrants, as many of us experienced such practices during the last two years, base hiring or employment decisions on such vaccine record. This is unconstitutional and creates such havoc in the economy and in one's life that shouldn't be even thought of. Lastly, creation of this platform would need to be financed out of taxpayers' money which could be used much better somewhere else. There is no reason to fund such platform with millions of dollars.

This Bill would extend Covid19 response in the state till 2024 which is no longer necessary since Covid19 is over. This bill is asking for institutions of higher education with residence halls for

students to establish a CV19 security plan with perpetual screening and testing of healthy students. In the name of safety, which is an undefined scientific category, it would require students be tested. We would be using EUA testing kits on a population that is not at risk of CV19, where the spread of CV19 is minimal. This bill is also unnecessarily asking for specific goals to be set to safely reopen schools, which have already been opened and being kept open safely in Maryland. Overall, we should be returning to sound medical practice which is testing of symptomatic people via medical doctors ordering tests when their patients need them. More testing of asymptomatic for CV19 is not necessary. This bill would also require various health departments to create other artificial testing goals to achieve, the funding of which is a waste of taxpayers' resources.

The bill is requesting to establish a strategy to increase vaccination amongst the unvaccinated, incentivize eligible individuals to receive a third dose of CV19 vaccine or any future vaccine recommended by the CDC. Since CV19 is over and the CV19 vaccine is not protective of the latest variant, Omicron, this is only a moneymaking proposition, transferring funds to the public health administration profession for creating policies, targets, monitoring, etc. and to the pharmaceutical companies who market the tests, masks and vaccines with questionable safety testing. There are treatments for CV19, so vaccines are not anymore essential. We better allow medical doctors treat patients with CV19.

The MyIR digital vaccine passport is discriminatory, allows segregation of society and worst, encourages employers to hire/fire based on a health choice regarding a vaccine. Everyone's health choice is private information; we shouldn't base access to basic needs on this choice.

As far as allowing pharmacists to order and inoculate children age 3 and over with CV19 EUA vaccine or with any other vaccine without requiring proper parental consent, this is dangerous and a serious breach of parental rights. Pharmacists are not doctors or nurses. Pharmacists have a lot of responsibilities, adding this to their busy schedule creates a danger to the health of children.

Recently I received a medication from my pharmacy which my doctor prescribed. At home when I wanted to take the medication, I noticed that the information didn't contain instruction on how many tablets to take per day. Since I couldn't reach the pharmacy nor my doctor, I myself needed to find the information on the internet. This was a simple case, being a regular antibiotic. What if a busy pharmacist is administering a vaccine to a 3-year-old? Any small mistake can cause serious harm for that child.

Please vote against this bill with a mish-mash of various items included that would all need to be debated separately and not in one bill as submitted here.