



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes on House Bill HB:1171

Bill Title: Labor and Employment – Maryland Employee Protection Plan for Vaccine Refusal

Hearing Date: March 9, 2021

Chair: Dereck E. Davis, Economic Matters Committee

I write to you today in **support** of **House Bill HB: 1171**. The purpose of the bill would be to prohibit an employer from terminating an employee solely on the basis of the employee's refusal to receive the COVID -19 Vaccination. It has been almost exactly one year since World Health Organization declared a worldwide pandemic. Since then, people have struggled on a daily basis with the unknowns of this deadly virus. Thankfully, scientists have worked hard to create and develop an effective vaccine. However, everything involving Covid-19 has spread at a rapid pace, including the distribution of the vaccine itself. Although the vaccine has a high prevention rate and I encourage those willing to get it, people have varying comfort levels of taking a new vaccine and should not be forced to do so.

This bill is important because no person's job should be at risk due to the refusal of obtaining the Covid-19 vaccination at this time. As vaccine distribution has only been in effect for a few months, long-term studies are unable to be conducted. As thousands of Maryland jobs, homes, and lives have been lost during these troubling times, this bill will help ensure that workers can continue to work without undue pressure to receive the vaccine.

In order to help protect Maryland jobs and the trust of the people, we hope that you will move for a **favorable** report on **House Bill: 1171**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Charles".

Nick Charles
Maryland State Delegate - District 25