

HB 1171 Written Testimony- SUPPORT

Chairman Davis and members of the committee,

My name is Dr. Carol Adams and I urge a favorable report on HB1171.

As a doctor with more than 40 years in practice, I fully support this bill. We all know COVID-19 is a serious disease with deadly consequences for far too many members of our community, however the vaccines that have been developed have not had long term safety and efficacy studies. There are counterindications and conditions that give people hesitancy about receiving a relatively untested medicine. I have spent my entire career serving low-income underserved communities and many economically vulnerable people have a lack of trust in new, unproven procedures. Many experimental medicines have failed them in the past and they are taking a wait and see approach to getting vaccinated. For employers to force people to choose between getting a vaccination that is not fully approved or losing their livelihood is an unconscionable position for people to be put in. We are not able to tell people this is absolutely safe and it 100% works but can only say this is what we came up with quickly and we will continue to work toward full approval by the FDA.

The mRNA vaccine is a totally new technology with no solid medical evidence that it reduces a vaccinated patient's ability to transmit the disease. There is no community protection from these vaccines making them unique and different from the traditional vaccines that are mandated to protect not just the vaccinated individual but the broader society as a whole.

These vaccines are approved for emergency use only by the FDA and will not be fully approved for years. Employees in the State of Maryland deserve the benefit of time and assurance before being economically coerced into getting an experimental medicine that has not been fully studied and approved by the FDA.

Thank you for your time today.