HB 1171 - Support

Good Afternoon Chair, Vice Chair, and the Members of the Committee. Thank you for letting me testify today.

My name is Jo Fitzgerald. I come to you as a registered nurse in support of this bill as I see it as offering protection to the rights of medical personnel.

This vaccine is presently experimental, therefore, no healthcare worker should be mandated to receive this biomedical experiment. Quite honestly, no one regardless of where they work, should be mandated to receive any type of invasive procedure. All injections are considered an invasive medical intervention.

The Covid 19 vaccine is new technology, it has not been created in the same way vaccines have been developed for decades which is by using a virus to stimulate the production of antibodies. Moderna, one of the manufacturers of this vaccine actually refers to this mRNA technology as being like an "app" or a "program" or "software" that utilizes information from your DNA. So, this "software" is being injected into a person. This has never been done before, so considering this, there are just too many unknowns.

The following is information obtained from an article that discusses the adverse events that have occurred since starting this vaccine:

"Between Dec. 14, 2020 and Feb. 18, 2021, 19,907 reports of adverse events have been reported to VAERS, including 1,095 deaths and 3,767 serious injuries. About a third of the deaths reported occurred within 48 hours of vaccination, and 48% of the people who died became ill within 48 hours of being vaccinated ...

About 21% of the deaths were cardiac-related. As The Defender reported last month, Dr. J. Patrick Whelan, a pediatric rheumatologist, warned the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in December that mRNA vaccines like those developed by Pfizer and Moderna could cause inflammation of the brain and heart, and other injuries in ways not assessed in safety trials." Source: <u>https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/injuries-reported-vaers-climbs/</u>

At this stage of the development of this new technology, all people who chose to receive this vaccine should be made aware that this is experimental and that they are part of the trial. All persons should have the right to chose to be part of the experimental trial or not. No one should be threatened to lose their job if they chose to not participate. Since the trial of this vaccine has not been completed, the risks and benefits has not been fully established at this time.

This bill would offer protection to Maryland healthcare workers who would make a decision out of fear of losing their jobs instead of making an informed decision regarding risks and benefits. All human beings have the right to make an informed decision regarding their health.

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