



Peter Franchot  
*Comptroller*

## TESTIMONY OF COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT

**Support – Senate Bill 840 – COVID-19 Response Act of 2022**

*Finance Committee*

*March 2, 2022*

Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and members of the Committee, it is my pleasure to provide testimony in **support** of **Senate Bill 840 – COVID-19 Response Act of 2022**. I would like to thank Senator Rosapepe for sponsoring this important legislation, and the Committee for providing the opportunity for my testimony to be heard.

As the coronavirus evolves, so must our strategies. I support a vaccine passport outlined in Senate Bill 840, because it's time for people who follow best practices and science – a vast majority of our state by any measure – to be able to return to their daily lives and routines. We cannot continue in this climate where the small percentage of the unvaccinated determine the course of life for the overwhelming majority of people who did the right thing and got vaccinated.

Despite all efforts to counter misinformation about vaccines, the reality is that even though a small minority of Maryland adults remain unvaccinated, these unvaccinated individuals perpetuate unnecessary challenges and have allowed variants such as omicron to develop at faster rates.

Vaccine passports would require people to provide proof of vaccination before entering public spaces such as restaurants, retail spaces, concert venues and fitness facilities. Valid credentials that would be recognized as having “passport status” include Centers for Disease Control and Prevention records, a digital photo of CDC documentation or a certificate from MD MyIR Mobile.

Vaccine passports not only encourage people to do the right thing, but they also could mitigate even more negative impacts to households and Maryland's economy. For the reasons stated above, and the safety of all Marylanders, I respectfully request a favorable report for Senate Bill 840. Thank you for your time and consideration.

###