

Oppose SB 839

Over the past two years we saw how the narrative was developed to support establishing rules designed to make the lives of the unvaccinated unbearable. Those rules limit access not only to discretionary activities but also to means of providing for families. Yet those vaccines have just a limited benefit, even that applicable to selected groups of people only. Worse yet, they do nothing to stop the infections, as an attached study shows.

As Covid-19 vaccination does not prevent transmission or infection, there is no compelling justification to segregate society into such distinct groups and restrict activities and reduce livelihood of the “undesirable” group. In fact, as the attached article explains, the passports “may backfire” against efforts to increase immunization.

Needless to say, most businesses do not support such programs due to unnecessary burden on operations and negative perception from customers. A vaccine passport proposal has failed in Montgomery County for these reasons. Even if a business implements a vaccine passport, they would be promising a false sense of security, as there is no guarantee of preventing infections.

The decision whether to take any vaccine must be a private, voluntary decision between healthcare providers and patients based on the individual risk/benefit profile of each patient. Forced to take a vaccine by the John Hopkins Hospital to keep her only job, one local woman died from her vaccine reaction. Yet, the employer was not responsible. There are many such cases.

Various private and public systems have been hacked and personal information exposed. Besides great financial cost, this creates risks for individuals that immensely complicate their lives overall, and destroys trust in such systems.

With the need for such a sensitive system to be accessible from a great variety of devices and situations, the cost to maintain such a system will be enormous and growing by the year. With the risks so great and no benefit, why should the state invest in the program? Does any business in the state actually benefit from this implementation? And the bill even calls for marketing expenses to be paid by the state!

Please oppose bill SB 839. There is no justification for spending on such a program with questionable benefits, the program that segregates society, discriminates based on medical or genetic information, violates medical privacy, risks exposure of sensitive information, and increases costs for everyone.