

SB840\_SHARPE\_unfav

Dear Senators.

I have concerns about vaccine passports; this bill assumes them and builds upon them.

We know that a vaccine passport might be a convenience, as long as the promised security of our private information is maintained. It is hard to be sure: Maryland Health Department data was compromised earlier this year. Hopefully that won't happen again.

But there are other issues that are more concerning. If Maryland institutes a vaccine passport, for now, it is about covid; this bill allows for future boosters to be added on. We might be fine with the original intention of the passport and with the vaccines it was originally designed to record. But how many boosters are enough? The Washington Post reported that booster effectiveness declined substantially after four months, suggesting the need for additional boosters. Israel is finding a fourth dose insufficient against Omicron. So we might have been fine with the first two or three but not want to get another.

Or what if there are other adult vaccines that become required but that we don't want to take? This bill allows any future CDC approved vaccine to be added to it. If I don't comply, will my passport go invalid? Will I then be compelled to receive the shots for the sake of maintaining my ability to function in a world we created by setting up this system in the first place?

Or will anyone who doesn't comply be relegated to the "other" tier of society?

What about passports for our kids? There are reasons many parents have been reluctant to sign up their kids for these new covid vaccines. There is a reasonable caution since we don't know, we can't possibly know, the long term effects until sufficient time has passed. So parents wait. Unless there is a passport system and our kids must be signed up. Coercion like this does not feel entirely about health, though.

My sister lives in Manhattan. She recently ate at a restaurant where her husband and she were asked for their papers. They showed them, but she said it felt wrong. Normalizing showing our proof of vaccination feels like an echo of a cautionary dystopian novel, not a preferred progressive future.

A passport system that can potentially compromise private information, that has an open ended number of requisite vaccines, and which compels parents to make a choice that is maybe against their better judgement is not a system we should institute in Maryland.

A vaccine passport system is a bad idea. Vote no for 840.