

Dear Committee Members,

Please OPPOSE SB0840 for the following reasons:

1. On the last estimate, 3 out of 4 Americans either had COVID overtly or are vaccinated and did not contract it (or maybe did but it did not present overtly). The other ¼, probably made up mostly of children, already had a COVID infection but it was mild enough to not even present. There is no need to micromanage SARS-CoV-2 at this point.
2. Vaccine passports would funnel money away from other programs that are more vital, such as early treatment. Collectively, there is an abundance of research that supports various therapeutic agents. Let's put money towards this – how about just focusing on this.
3. Vaccine passports are onerous for businesses to implement. This is precisely the reason they have been voted down in many jurisdictions. Small businesses are still trying to recover from the shutdowns – let's funnel money to support them.
4. Incentivizing vaccines is considered coercion. I am honestly surprised that this type of behavior is allowed at the state level and that lawmakers think this is acceptable. There is plenty of research supporting adverse effects of COVID vaccines – remember these are still experimental and not FDA-approved for those under 16. Please take a look at this study that documents increasing rates of autoimmune conditions due to vaccination. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/imm.13443>.
5. Marketing a vaccine passport requires state funds – those can be used elsewhere for other supportive programs.
6. Pharmacists and pharmacy techs should not be vaccinating children. They are not qualified to assess and discuss adverse reactions or provide follow-up care if appropriate. They should be focusing on accuracy with drug dispersal, which continues to be an issue. That is not even relevant for COVID as these vaccines are not FDA approved for those under 16. Why is this even in this bill?
7. There is nothing in this bill about supporting those with long-COVID and inappropriate immune response in spite of vaccination. Where will that be addressed?
8. By the way, there is not state declared emergency for COVID any longer. We should be discussing recovery efforts.

There is no need for a vaccine passport system in Maryland and the response to COVID in this bill is a little late. I'd like to see more public health guidance and support on how to live healthfully, perhaps expanding access to nutritious food.

As a taxpayer, I oppose this bill and ask you to do the same.

Thank you,  
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