

There are few things that belong to a person. Fundamental to everyone's humanity is their bodily autonomy. What I do with my body should be my choice. But this bill wants to take a little bit of that autonomy away. It's not obvious. It is voluntary. I can choose to do something to my body, get a vaccine. Then I can choose to carry proof of that having done that. It seems like a convenience really. I don't have to worry about losing my vaccine card. It's easier that way.

But there is a tradeoff that I don't want to make. The passport enables my freely given, happily willing, uncoerced medical compliance to be linked with social freedoms like going to a restaurant, or financial freedoms, like whether I can have a certain job.

And what for the person who chooses not to get the vaccine. What for the person who now will be unable to access places that require the vaccine.

Of course it is a business's prerogative to discriminate against that choice. Businesses should be able to make their own rules. But it is not right for the state of Maryland to enable that discrimination and for taxpayers to fund the system that facilitates that discrimination, which is exactly what this bill is created to do.

We aren't in an emergency any more. It is not urgent any longer that we shut down and take away. Thank goodness we have arrived at opening and freeing.

But instituting a passport system locks us into to a solution whose need has passed. That actually, has been tried in other places and rejected. Montgomery County tried, and the business community balked. NYC is nixing passports as of March 7. They see that financial harm passports did, and really, the need has passed; covid metrics are on the decline, as they are in most of the United States.

Please vote no for this bill. We do not want vaccine passports.