

## OPPOSE Senate Bill 839

Eszter Szabo

7608 Cayuga Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20817

March 1, 2022

I would like to talk about my personal experience growing up in Hungary with respect to the proposed MyIR digital vaccine passport for displaying COVID-19 EUA vaccination information in this bill. As you know till 1990 Hungary was a socialist country. Citizens there had only limited access to products, services, information, technology as well as travel outside of the former Soviet Bloc. We could only apply for a visa to the West once every three years.

Most people know that in 1990 the Berlin Wall separating East and West Europe fell down which ended a system that brought limitations to half of Europe's citizens. Few however know that in 1989 Hungarians were on the streets peacefully protesting for more freedom and ending a socio-political system that limited people's individual rights as well as freedom to travel. I first came to the USA in 1990 after travel opened up for the citizens in the Eastern Bloc.

In the USA and in Western Europe I found a system much freer and with a wide variety of choices and I would have never imagined that in 2022 we would be talking about a digital system that keeps track of, and allows just about anyone to see an individual's health record which is a personal private information, and that based on such record, some would be limited to access certain services in Maryland. Establishing such a vaccine passport de-facto starts segregation of people in society and limits access to services. It invites discrimination based on one's health choices as well as possible disabilities, turns vaccinated and unvaccinated against each other, and turns a door-keeper at a business against its potential customers. This should never take place. Would we want to create violence in society via such pass? One only needs to look at Canada to know that is a bad idea.

Moreover, vaccine passports have failed all over the world. Washington, D.C. gave up on vaccine requirements to access businesses after 2 weeks and New York just scrapped its vaccine pass system as well. There are many reasons why these passes failed. First, Covid 19 is over. Second, the Covid 19 vaccine is not stopping transmission of Sars-COV 2 thus there is no scientific reason to institute such passport and segregate people based on that vaccine. Third such system allows for unprecedented surveillance, privacy breach, data collection, censorship, discrimination and control over people. Little tyrants, as many of us experienced such practices during the last two years, base hiring or employment decisions on such vaccine record. This is unconstitutional and creates such havoc in the economy and in one's life which shouldn't be even thought of. Lastly, creation of this platform would need to be financed out of taxpayers' money which could be used much better somewhere else. There is no reason to fund such platform.

I respectfully ask that you vote against this Bill.