

SB839

Maryland Voluntary COVID-19 Vaccine Passport

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Unfavorable

Since the inception of the COVID-19 vaccine, we have learned a lot. We have learned that having a vaccine does not stop transmission of the virus or prevent the person from getting the virus. Additionally, we know that vaccines have waning effects. So why would we waste our precious state fund on a system that is meaningless. These funds should be spent on our future, our children, our school systems. Not something that has already been proven to be meaningless.

A passport will do nothing to stop the spread. In fact, it can actually do the opposite because vaccinated people who are positive for the virus can gain entry to establishments, while healthy unvaccinated people with natural antibodies and immunity may be discriminated against.

The data has shown that the actual risk of COVID-19 varies greatly for different sectors of the population. I am grateful for the availability of the vaccination for more vulnerable portions of the population. However, to encourage a passport that may lead to a blanket use by establishment for everyone based on one risk segment is misguided.

I urge you to consider the long-term ramifications of encouraging a program, even if it is voluntary, that can discriminate against a portion of the population which can cause real social and economic consequences. Please follow the science like you have been saying throughout the pandemic and don't get lost in the one size fits all category for vaccinations and requiring proof.