

Favorable for HB799

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I would like to talk about my personal experience growing up in Hungary with respect to this proposed bill that would protect individuals' health choice regarding vaccination. 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. As far as employment is concerned, one had not much choices and even when they had a job, they didn't have freedom to speak against state narrative and politics.

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 to be what they wanted to become. 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 had found a system much freer and with a wide variety of choices.

I would have never imagined anything like what has been taking place since 2020 in Maryland to take place in the West. In other legislative bills to be discussed today, there is talk about a digital vaccine passport 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 or even employment in Maryland. I lost my job with a private employer because of the vaccine mandate and I personally know 6 people who moved out of Maryland because they couldn't do their job or couldn't get a job in Maryland in the last 2 years. They are now living in Florida, North-Carolina, and West-Virginia.

One of the gravest decisions that took place in our state was mandating an EUA vaccine for the University System of Maryland. With this decision our state university endangered the life of those who are the youngest generation, who are healthy and are not at risk of this virus. They are however at risk of immediate or long-term side-effects of these vaccines. I don't know anyone who died of CV19 but I know personally many who are dealing with adverse effects after they received the vaccine. Such EUA vaccines cannot be made mandatory for employment, vaccination must stay a personal choice, and those who choose to be unvaccinated need to have legal protection against discrimination and loss of employment. That is why I support this bill that will hopefully set a precedence for this protection.

I respectfully ask that you vote for this Bill.