

To whom it may concern

I am writing in support of Maryland's House Bill 0699, known as the Vaccination by Choice Act. My name is Joel Wallskog. I am an orthopedic surgeon from Wisconsin. I was injured by my one and only Moderna shot that I received on 12/30/20. Within 7 days of my shot, I began having numbness and weakness in my legs. I was subsequently diagnosed with transverse myelitis—an injury to my spinal cord. I have also been struggling with chronic nausea, high blood pressure, a high heart rate, fatigue and ironically insomnia among other symptoms. These symptoms are likely the result of injury to my autonomic nervous system. I am medically disabled and have never been able to return to work.

I am now co-chair of a science-based, nonpolitical, 501c3 nonprofit organization called React19. We are an advocacy organization that supports the COVID-19 shot injured population. We provide them financial, physical and emotional support. We started this organization in November of 2021 with approximately 10 injured people. We now represent **over 21,000** Americans seriously injured by the COVID-19 shots. We are real, NOT rare. Traditional health care, health care organizations, and our federal agencies have failed us. We have turned to caring for each other.

I urge you to pass this bill. Where there is risk, there must be choice. If you want to follow the science, listen to the silenced. Please note that I do not call the COVID-19 shots a vaccine. Vaccines by definition prevent infection and prevent transmission. The COVID-19 shots unfortunately do neither. They are clearly not effective. The current bivalent booster is effective against less than 5% of the circulating variants. This information is readily available on the CDC website. The shots are **NOT SAFE**. We are in the midst of the largest clinical drug trial with the COVID-19 shots in world history. The Pfizer shot received Emergency Use Authorization in 108 days. The average time for FDA approval of a vaccine is somewhere between 5 and 10 years. One of the pedestals of safety monitoring of new therapeutics is to never use drugs in children and pregnant women until safety is proven. These rules have been ignored with the COVID-19 shots. Although any reasonable scientist would admit to massive underreporting to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS), there are millions of reports of injuries from the COVID-19 shots. The more recent variants and subvariants of COVID-19 have become much less virulent, meaning in most cases causing mild to often no symptoms. Literature continues to come out disproving the narrative that the shots decrease the rate of death and hospitalization. The science yet again is ignored.

I understand that people are tired of COVID-19. However, our response to the pandemic in my opinion has been exponentially worse than the pandemic itself. We unnecessarily shut down the world economy, ignored the science of natural immunity and early treatment. We failed to follow the science that masks are ineffective to prevent infection or transmission of COVID-19. We failed to consider risk/benefit analysis of the shots. We have tyrannically mandated the shots to people. We have injured thousands, if not millions of people. Then we censored and ignored them.

I urge you to ignore the pro-pharma narrative that vaccines are safe and effective. Science proves that they are unsafe and ineffective. Protect your constituents from the harm and tyranny of the shots and mandates. I am dedicated to treating those injured by the COVID-19 shots. However, I am also dedicated to preventing further injuries. Maryland HB 0699 is a step in the right direction to respect bodily autonomy and allow people to follow the science. The science is clear. Stop the mandates now.

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