## **HB0699**

Position: FWA

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Discriminating against students trying to attend college in our state by requiring largely ineffectual and potentially risky medical treatments runs contrary to what we now know about their near-zero risk of serious infection or death from Covid-19.

We now know that, however well-intentioned, the Covid-19 vaccines do not prevent infection or transmission of Covid-19. Thankfully, though, successive strains of the virus have proven to be less virulent than previous strains. We also now know that most of the population have already been exposed to the virus, which is good news because natural immunity is now reported to be as effective, if not more so, than the Covid-19 vaccines.

To continue to mandate the Covid-19 vaccines is to ignore current scientific reality. Young adults attending college in Maryland should be able to make up their own minds as to whether or not they want the vaccine.

Please help to ensure that public policy always reflects current scientific reality by supporting HB 699 with the amendment prohibiting the University of Maryland system from mandating the Covid-19 vaccines for admission and/or employment.

Thank you, Sean Carr Monkton, MD