

Kathy Talbott, Myersville, MD

Dear Honorable members of the HGO Committee,

I am writing in favor of HB699, with amendments.

Covid 19 showed us clearly that mandates have no place in societies that value the health and wellbeing of every citizen.

Mandates fuel discrimination. Discrimination has no place in a healthy, civil, democratic society.

I and my family got covid before vaccines were available, and we knew based on long time understanding of immunity that when one battles an illness, one has protection from that illness the next time one encounters it. Natural immunity. Vaccine knowledge came from observing natural immunity. Common sense. Historical proof. Ignored during Covid-19.

Contrary to hundreds of studies on natural immunity, the CDC and government agencies with public health organizations across the country insisted that vaccination was necessary even if one had already battled and won over Covid-19.

We were locked out of society and life. Having recovered from covid to no ill effects, (ages 81, 73, 60, 15, 11, 11) we experienced and therefore knew the dangers to us from covid were negligible. The dangers of a new technology applied to a new shot were unknown as time is the deciding factor, so we chose not to be part of the experiment, unnecessary for us as we had already passed through covid with no problems. Having used our rights to informed consent, we were unable to participate as those who were vaccinated could.

The CDC, the organization to which all decisions seemed to rest upon, ignored not just the reality of natural immunity, but their own data on who was at risk and who was not, insisting everyone was equally at risk. ([CDC COVID Data Tracker: Trends in Cases and Deaths by Race/Ethnicity, Age, and Sex](#)) Pre-school, school aged children, college students, and most healthy individuals under 50 were fairing well. Even as cases rose and fell, deaths were consistently centered around those with comorbidities, weak immune systems, and particularly the elderly, probably due to both of those things. This was consistent from beginning to end. This generally held true regardless of the strain. Yet these new vaccines were still pushed as the only way out for everyone, regardless of individual circumstances; age, health, need.

Mandates create a tiered society, division, and distrust. Mandates divide families, neighbors, and friends. Mandates were useless with a vaccine that doesn't stop infection. Regardless of how many times people were called selfish and ignorant, unwilling to protect others, the truth about these vaccines flips that on its head. They don't protect anyone but the person who receives them. They don't last. They are no better than natural immunity. ([Natural immunity as protective as Covid vaccine against severe illness \(nbcnews.com\)](#)) They are potentially as dangerous to youth as covid itself. Who are the experts in what one should or should not do with one's body? The people themselves. There is no room in a healthy society for one to diminish another over something that is an individual decision.

No one should be disallowed from society by refusing a medical product or for taking one. No one should be intimidated, or worse, legislated by another to do what they believe is not in their own best

interest. Nobody should lose a job, an educational opportunity, an ability to freely engage in the joys of society and life or be forced to sacrifice their needs for someone else's beliefs.

There is little sanity in forcing someone to inject a product they do not need. There is little regard in bullying people to 'follow the science'. Science that didn't exist. ([Pfizer admits it did not know its Covid vaccine prevented transmission of virus when rollout began \(msn.com\)](#)) Science that changes over time.

My three daughters are now of age to choose their college. We'd all like them to be able to choose from all the wonderful schools in the Maryland system. Mandates at any college will disallow this option. They will be working soon. Mandates may hinder their work decisions.

Covid showed us there is no room for bias. What is clung to wholeheartedly today may be folly tomorrow. (History has proved that time and time again. Will we learn from history?) Forced compliance based on personal bias or belief has no place in a civil, democratic society. Respecting diversity through valuing each citizen does.

Please give HB699 a vote of favorable with amendments. I and my family support this bill.

Sincerely,

Kathy Talbott

Myersville ,MD