

HB0699 FWA
FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT
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Honorable Delegate:

I am writing tonight to urge you in the strongest terms to vote FAVORABLE ON H.B. 0699 WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT (FWA) and support Vaccination by Choice Act full name State and Local Government - Proof of Vaccination for Employees and Applicants for Employment - Prohibition (Vaccination by Choice Act). This bill Prohibits the State and the political subdivisions in the State from requiring an applicant for employment or an employee to provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19 as a condition for employment.

The hallmark of the United States of America is individual freedom. No human being should be compelled to submit to a medical procedure as proof of enrollment in an educational facility or to obtain employment. In this case the covid vaccinations are highly experimental and risky and the FDA itself states that : "data are not available to make a determination about how long the vaccine will provide protection, nor is there evidence that the vaccine prevents transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from person to person." <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-takes-key-action-fight-against-covid-19-issuing-emergency-use-authorization-first-covid-19>

Natural Immunity after COVID-19 infection seems strong against all variants of the coronavirus, a finding recently published in the prestigious Lancet journal: "Protection from past infection against re-infection from pre-omicron variants was very high and remained high even after 40 weeks. Protection was substantially lower for the omicron BA.1 variant and declined more rapidly over time than protection against previous variants. Protection from severe disease was high for all variants. The immunity conferred by past infection should be weighed alongside protection from vaccination when assessing future disease burden from COVID-19, providing guidance on when individuals should be vaccinated, and designing policies that mandate vaccination for workers or restrict access, on the basis of immune status, to settings where the risk of transmission is high, such as travel and high-occupancy indoor settings."

Finally unless this bill passes, those who apply but do not qualify for a religious or medical exemption will be denied the opportunity for equal access to jobs and education at Maryland's public institutions.

Thank you for your kind attention

Sincerely
Amy Finnegan

