

HB 699
FWA (Favorable with Amendment)
Eszter Szabo
Bethesda, Maryland 20817

I am a Maryland resident, a University of Maryland, College Park alumnus '1993, and a mother of two current students at UMD, College Park (UMD). When the pandemic lockdowns started, I sent my husband to pick up our son from the UMD Campus and bring him home immediately. I told them to bring home most of his belongings because I estimated that the lockdowns would be longer than the spring semester break that would start on the following Monday. My family was planning to go skiing during the spring semester break but we canceled the skiing trip. We thought that if there was a pandemic, people should stay home as the authorities recommended in order to 'flatten the curve' for 10 days.

Then when everyone was home, I started listening to the doctors and scientists who were talking about the pandemic response. And slowly, I came to understand that what was happening and more specifically what was going to happen as part of the pandemic response will bring us a whole set of other problems. These were the ideas that we should be keeping K-12 schools and universities closed for months using virtual education and forcing young generations of our society to bear a disproportionate burden of the pandemic response.

Then I remembered a documentary film that I watched titled *Trust WHO* from 2017. This film shows how the WHO, a global health agency changed the way it operates starting in the first decade of this century. These changes subsequently allowed for other changes in our healthcare system as we know it. Professional definitions were changed, reporting criteria were changed, public health education was changed, etc. during the last decades. Thus, health care and health regulations started to change which then was followed by legislative changes at federal, national, and state levels also. Most of the public didn't know anything about any of this. Many things became possible that were impossible before these changes, such as the authorities locking down healthy people, arbitrarily closing essential businesses and services, and thus destroying the lives of many citizens not at risk of the virus including children and young adults who were being impacted the most harmfully by the pandemic response. In order to save the few who could

possibly be at serious risk (age 65 and over and people with many co-morbidities), society sacrificed the most vulnerable; our young ones. It was horrible to know what the outcome of these response decisions would be.

Then the vaccine solution was introduced into the picture. The whole idea that we can develop a vaccine in three to seven months which usually takes 5 to 10 years to do, and that they can develop a vaccine for a fast-mutating Coronavirus which they had tried but failed to do over 40 years, sounded like a fairy tale, something from a Disney movie. But many in Maryland, and most in Montgomery County and in the other central counties believed this propaganda.

Then came the issue of the Mask. Where to wear one, how many to wear, which one to wear, and all the arguments among people on this issue, policing each other such as in former East Germany during socialist times. On the social media platform, Nextdoor people were constantly arguing and calling those businesses out where masks were not enforced or where later unvaccinated employees did not need to wear a mask.

Now I will talk about what happened on April 23rd, 2021 when I opened my email and read to my horror that an experimental vaccine would be mandated for my children at UMD, College Park to attend the university from the next Fall. I could not believe my eyes. I thought that this could not be true. A vaccine would be tested on healthy young people who are not at risk of the Coronavirus and many of whom by that time had acquired natural immunity. Fraternity and Sorority houses at the UMD Campus were under lockdown in February 2021 because most members tested positive for covid and were sent home or quarantined on campus. At that time, I told my children that they were not to receive this vaccine because they are not at risk of the virus, (one of them already had the disease) and that the vaccine was only for those who needed them. I also told them that I believed that this mandate would be withdrawn hopefully by August because this was a violation of their human rights, their rights to Health Choice, it was against the US Constitution, and against international agreements on clinical research involving human subjects.

On April 20, 2021, three days prior to the USM vaccine mandate being announced, a virtual panel held a town hall at UMD where they promoted an untested vaccine to healthy young students most of whom already had natural immunity. (See attached flier) Since most of these college

students did not get proper information about this vaccine or were not informed about their rights or how to decline the vaccine while staying at the university, many succumbed to the relentless propaganda put out by the university authorities and mainstream media, and were against their conscience coerced to getting the vaccine.

On the day when the mandate was announced, a Facebook group was started where parents of students, students and employees of the University System of Maryland tried to find out details about this mandate from each other and discussed issues related to it. We were trying to understand what was going on behind the decision to mandate the experimental vaccine to healthy college students, we tried to find out from university authorities or the USM chancellor's office why and based on what information the vaccine was mandated, and who were the decision-makers. The university did not provide adequate answers to our questions till today.

The stories we uncovered being part of this group of parents, employees, and students were heart-wrenching; family relationships, life-long friendships destroyed via arguing about the vaccine, about who should or who should not get it, who is allowed to come to Christmas / Easter family gatherings, parents informing their young adult children that they would not be paying for the college education if their child would get the vaccine, students getting the vaccine going against their parents' advice and needing to apply for loans to continue their studies, those getting the vaccine getting sick with covid two to three times after getting the vaccine while many who didn't get the vaccine or didn't wear a mask never got sick, students being bullied by sorority moms to get the vaccine, the university authorities locking exempted students who could not get there twice mandatory weekly test done, out of their dormitories and suspending their food cards, coaches discriminating and calling out the exempted un vaccinated on the team, professors exposing private health information of being exempted, unvaccinated in front of the whole class, exempted employees not allowed to step foot on campus because they didn't sign the risk memorandum, the College Park campus requiring to wear a mask on campus but no one needing to wear one on Route 1 in the pubs or restaurants. PG County required a mask mandate

for months while the neighboring Anne Arundel County didn't have one. Family members sued each other because of the decision to vaccinate or not vaccinate grandmother. A total nightmare!

The federal government provided billions of dollars for covid relief response including vaccination, hundreds of millions of dollars were sent to universities and schools, and our youngest and healthiest were force tested daily or weekly to attend school.

Then came the vaccine injured and their horrible stories; those who died of the vaccine, those who developed Guillain-Barre syndrome, the ones with unstoppable muscle shaking, those confined to wheelchairs, the ones with turbo cancer diagnosis, young people and children with heart inflammation, stroke, sudden collapses during a sports game, the blood clots, etc. At the same time, the White House, the media, and the health authorities were promoting the vaccine as "safe and effective". It was like living in two realities!

The USM Board of Regents did not allow public comments during their meetings regarding the vaccine mandates and for two years UMD leadership did not answer hundreds, possibly thousands of emails inquiring about by whom these mandate decisions were made, and what scientific basis they were based or when the mandates would end. Then in August 2022, Chancellor Perman in his speech stated "And my opinion is bolstered by a new study from the National Bureau of Economic Research. The study suggests that colleges' vaccination mandates had a substantial effect on county-level COVID infections and deaths..."

<https://www.usmd.edu/newsroom/news/2264> Chancellor Perman referenced this study which assured him that the vaccine mandate was a success. This study had suggestive results, it was a working paper, talked about the 'spillover effect' and was put out by a private non-profit research organization with a focus on economics, not science. This is preposterous, most unscientific, a crime of the century. To expose our healthy, young generations attending college in Maryland (several hundreds of thousands of them) to an untested, potentially lethal, or crippling vaccine is against the Nuremberg Code, the Helsinki Accord, and the Belmont Report.

The clinical trials for the vaccines were not tailored to special subgroups such as children, young adults, and pregnant women; sufficient scientific data was not available in April 2021, at the time of the USM vaccine mandate and such data are still not available even today.

USM Chancellor, USM BOR Covid-19 Committee, and other undisclosed committees and legal counsel made decisions on the issue of the mandates. There was no vaccine mandate by the Maryland Secretary of Health or Maryland Governor. A recent Public Information Act request submitted to UMD, College Park, which went beyond the USM requiring booster only for residential students in January 2022, received the names of members of two such committees at UMD. We look forward to receiving more information released to the public via the PIA process in the near future.

Vaccines should be available for those who truly need them but they should not be mandated without true informed consent to healthy populations. If informed consent cannot be provided, the product cannot be mandated. This is the only ethically sound principle our civilization should accept.

Now, Members of this Honorable HGO Committee, please do the right thing and vote HB 699 with the amendment out of committee in order to legally protect state and certain municipal employees as well as college students at Maryland's public institutions of higher education against profit-seeking pharmaceutical and drug companies and associations such as the American College Health Association that advises colleges on vaccination requirements.

Continued on next page.

COMMITTEE PRESENTS

VAX FACTS PANEL

APRIL 20, 2021 FROM 5:30-7 PM EST

Do you have questions about COVID-19? Are you wondering if you should get the COVID-19 vaccine? Join clinicians and experts for a virtual panel as they discuss college students' most asked questions about COVID-19 and vaccines!



**Spyridon
Marinopoulos**
MD, MBA
UMD
Health Center
Director



**Nia
Bodrick**
MD, MPH, FAAP
Children's
National



**Christian
Cornejo**
MD, FAAP
Mary's Center



**David
Mann**
MD, PhD
MD Dept of Health
Office of Minority
Health and Health
Disparities

Register at go.umd.edu/vaxfacts

Link to a document prepared for legislators about the vaccine mandate at USM:

<https://tinyurl.com/mdfree23>