

My name is Steve Bress. I have been a Maryland resident for much more than 60 years. I urge you to vote favorably on HB0699 as amended.

Proof of vaccination should never be used as a condition of employment. My wife had a 20+ year career in the health care industry. During lockdown, she helped maintain proper operations of one of the larger Maryland hospital systems, which includes many acute care hospitals and clinics throughout the state. A year ago, she was forced out of her job over the issue of proof of vaccination. She worked in the IT department, and her job was permanently classified as 100% work from home. She had NO direct interaction with patients, or anyone at all for that matter. They were clearly not interested in anyone's health, as they gave her a 6 month extension of time to comply with their demand before she would be fired. She ended up finding a better job and quitting before the deadline, leaving the hospital system without a valuable resource.

While this bill is too late to help with her situation, a medical procedure should never have been mandated as a condition of employment.

This bill can help my son. He faces some unique challenges as he gets ready to enter the workforce. Some of the most appropriate jobs for him are actually government jobs. One example is an elevator inspector. He could be successful at that, and we had been holding that out as an example of what he could strive for. With state and local governments mandating the Covid vaccine, and threatening the license of any doctor that disagrees with the mandate, he will not be able to work for the government without a bill such as this.

I urge you to vote favorably toward to HB0699. Thank you.

Steve Bress

Germantown, MD