

March 2, 2023

Delegate Josselyn Pena-Melnyk, Chair

House Health and Government Operations committee

HB 699 State and Local Government-Proof of Vaccination for Employees and Applicants for Employment
– Prohibition (Vaccination by Choice Act)

Position: FAVORABLE with Amendment

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 699 with the amendment.

The current boosters have proven ineffective at curbing infection and stopping the transmission of the Covid virus. Current strains of the virus are less virulent and most of the population has already been exposed to the virus.

At this point, it should be the students' choice as to whether or not they take the booster shot—not their admitting university. Employees should also be afforded the right to make their own medical decisions and employers should not be able to dictate this decision as a requirement to maintain employment.

I have personally seen the stress and devastation this has caused Maryland families. I cannot image the enormous stress trying to decide on whether to be forced to take a product that one does not want in order to be able to maintain a paycheck or pension.

Mandating the Covid shots was a mistake and legislation such as House Bill 699 (with amendment) will help rectify that error by ensuring that unsubstantiated and unfounded mandates do not continue to unfairly ruin the lives of hardworking Marylanders.

Thank you,

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