

HB699 FWA (Favorable with Amendment)
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The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 310
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

6 March 2023

To the Honorable Delegates of the State of Maryland,

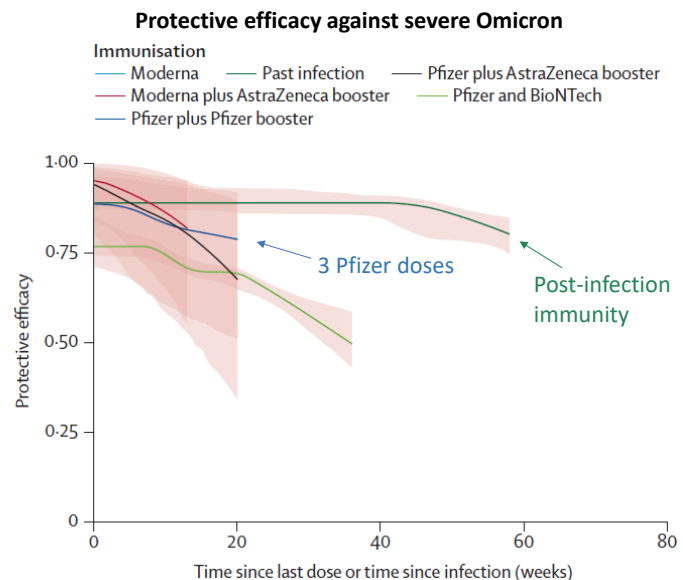
I have dedicated my entire professional life to the development of vaccines and antiviral drugs. I am as robustly pro-vaccine as a person can be, and yet I am here to ask you to support SB699 and eliminate COVID vaccine mandates at state institutions.

I studied pandemic preparedness at the CDC, earned a PhD in Virology, was a Fellow at UC-Berkeley's School of Public Health, and dedicated my career to discovering new vaccines and antivirals because of their tremendous positive impact. Along the way, I also learned that **there always comes a point at which more dosing is not better**, and the risks begin to outweigh the benefits.

I eagerly got my COVID vaccinations in 2021, as did my children. But when the CDC recommended bivalent boosters, **there was no evidence that someone like me – low risk and with robust immunity – would benefit from another vaccine dose**, and I declined. [Across Europe](#), many [national health](#) agencies reached the same conclusion and [declined to even recommend further vaccine doses](#) for low-risk groups, much less mandate them.

Nearly all of us have been infected by at least one COVID variant, leaving us with infection-derived immunity (also called “natural immunity”). Just last month, [The Lancet's COVID-19 Team](#) reviewed the available evidence and found that **natural immunity protects as well as vaccination and is more durable**. They conclude that we “should take into account immunity conferred by vaccination *and that provided by natural infection*.” I've reproduced here the key figure from the Lancet review.

Furthermore, vaccine-induced myocarditis is sufficiently common in young adults to make further vaccination [a net harm](#). Per [the CDC's COVID-19 Response Team](#), this is often serious: **25% of reviewed vaccine myocarditis cases required admission to the ICU, and 26% required ongoing medication more than three months later.**



In light of these data, we must return to the foundational principles of medicine: Informed Consent, and First Do No Harm. I urge you to pass SB699 and end Maryland's COVID vaccine mandates.

Sincerely,
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