

I am in favor of HB1171. As I have watched the economy crash during the COVID-19 pandemic, I feel strongly that it's important for employers, particularly those who own small businesses, to be offered protection from legal recourse associated with COVID-19 transmission within their workplace.

Furthermore, I feel that it is very important not to mandate a vaccination that hasn't been through the full course of clinical trials. The vaccines currently offered in our state are all due to be in clinical trials up through 2023 (see attachments), with the exception of the Moderna vaccine which is scheduled to conclude in late 2022. It would be premature for employers to mandate vaccinations that haven't even been thoroughly tested.

There is also no legal recourse available for anyone who receives any of the COVID vaccines currently. With the emergency authorization in-play, the manufacturer is not liable, nor is an employer, if someone were to suffer severe side effects after a mandatory vaccine. It seems too risky at this time to mandate a vaccine with no protections in-place for employees if something were to go wrong (see CNBC article attached).

It would place hardworking people in a very tight spot to feel backed into a corner to receive a vaccine that is not only openly questioned in the mainstream but also still in clinical trials. One cannot offer assurances to those who are hesitant when the scientific community has not yet come to a consensus itself.

I urge you to please pass this bill as a protective measure for both employees and employers in the state of Maryland. T

Thank you,
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