

My name is Renee Bress. I urge you to vote YES on HB1171.

The entire world has been turned upside down with the current Covid crisis. Everyone is trying to do the right thing, and there are a lot of emergency actions in process. However, not all of the actions are going to be as helpful as intended.

I have a very complicated medical history that even my doctors struggle with. I'm also a very private person. I don't want to discuss my medical issues with anyone at work and have them judge me for them. I would like to believe that my rights to privacy under HIPAA extend into the workplace and that I won't have to defend why I do or do not want to participate in the clinical trials currently taking place with the emergency use vaccines.

I believe that the makers of the vaccines are trying to deliver something that is safe and effective for the majority of people. However, nothing is safe for everyone, even aspirin. These vaccines are based on new technology that has never been used before. People with pre-existing conditions were actively excluded from the safety studies, so I have no way to know how they would affect me, or interact with any medications I take. With my complicated medical history, I can't afford to be part of this experiment, and don't believe I should have to worry about losing my job because of it.

Please vote yes on this bill and vote to respect my right to medical privacy in the workplace.

Thank you,

Renee Bress

Germantown, MD