

## **SUPPORT HB1171-Labor and Employment: Maryland Employee Protection Plan for Vaccine Refusal**

I am writing to express SUPPORT for HB1171 – Labor and Employment: Maryland Employee Protection Plan for Vaccine Refusal. Currently, my husband is our only our only wage earner. While I am normally very supportive of vaccinations and believe that they protect us from many diseases that can do great harm, I have major safety concerns surrounding the new COVID-19 vaccinations that were rushed out for production and what might happen should my husband’s employer decide to mandate its use.

These vaccines contain a completely new technology. They are mRNA vaccinations and have never before been used in humans. I have attached to this testimony several news articles related to mRNA and the side effects many people seem to be experiencing as a result of this new kind of vaccination. As much as we want to be safe and protected from COVID-19, we also cannot afford for my husband to miss work as a result of possible vaccination side effects. I appreciate that this bill protects both employers and employees and would like to see it passed.

Several schools have been in the news for closing while teachers receive vaccines since so many are falling ill and they do not have enough staff to keep the doors open (see included news articles). We cannot afford that financial hardship and many businesses can’t either. s

Please SUPPORT HB1171 and let us wait for the completion of the studies.

Thank you,

Jessica Helms

623 Elfin Ave.

Capitol Heights, MD 20743