

March 5, 2021

HB1171: Labor and Employment - Maryland Employee Protection Plan for Vaccine Refusal
FAVORABLE

Dear Economics Matters Committee,

I'm writing as a Maryland resident to express support for HB1171: Labor and Employment - Maryland Employee Protection Plan for Vaccine Refusal.

Currently the vaccines for COVID-19 are under Emergency Use Authorization only by the FDA. The long-term scientific trials and studies will not be completed until 2023.

Additionally, Pfizer and Moderna are not liable as vaccine manufacturers for any injuries or deaths. If a workplace mandates that an employee gets the vaccine - who is going to help that worker if they are injured, disabled, or die? Everyone is different and needs to make medical decisions with their doctors based on their personal health history.

The science says that masking and physical distancing are still important and required, even after receiving both vaccines. No employee should be forced to get a vaccine to keep their job, especially when all the same measures and precautions we are taking now are still highly recommended by the CDC.

Please see the following articles below.

More information on how the science is still evolving around vaccination and COVID-19:

<https://www.businessinsider.com/people-who-had-coronavirus-only-need-one-vaccine-dose-2021-2>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-who-vaccines-compe/who-agrees-compensation-fund-for-serious-covax-vaccine-side-effects-idUSKBN2AM266>

Sincerely,
Shawna Sherrell
District 5