

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

Dear Chair Davis, Vice-Chair Dumais, and Distinguished Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

I am thrilled to see HB1171 in Maryland! I know that many other states are considering similar legislation. Pfizer and Moderna have developed vaccines unlike anything that has ever existed. In fact, this is the FIRST EVER product that Moderna has gotten to market.

I wanted to inform the committee about VAERS

VAERS is the Federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System. According to their website, vaers.hhs.gov, "VAERS is a national early warning system to detect possible safety problems in U.S. licensed vaccines. VAERS is co-managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). VAERS accepts and analyzes reports of adverse events (possible side effects) after a person has received a vaccination."

The VAERS numbers are updated on Fridays. According to the latest numbers from 03/04/21 that were posted 02/26/21, VAERS data on both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines is showing the following numbers post vaccination:

1095 Deaths

755 Life Threatening Injuries

403 Permanent Disabilities

2,298 Hospitalizations

4,129 Emergency Room Visits

2,894 Office Visits.

All Adverse Reactions reported total 23,177

I have a history of anaphylaxis and autoimmunity throughout my immediate and extended family. We have got to see the long-term science on this vaccine before we can make a decision. No one in my immediate family falls into any high-risk categories for the virus and actually believe that we had it last February before testing was available. While I know that the virus is devastating for some, our family had what I would describe as a moderate "cold" and could be more at risk from an experimental mRNA vaccine with no long-term research in a large population.

Please give this bill a chance with a FAVORABLE report.

Sarah Cusack
District 14