

My name is Steve Bress. I have been a Maryland resident for much more than 50 years. I urge you to vote YES on HB1171. It is most definitely in the best interest of Maryland employers and employees.

Just before the lockdown, I started a new business in Maryland. I expect to be hiring within the next year. It would have been last year, but the Covid situation put an unfortunate delay in the schedule. I have a lot of technical and manufacturing issues to address during the startup phase. What I don't have any interest in addressing is the employee's choice as to whether to accept or decline a vaccine.

In my opinion, for the employer to be liable for the personal medical decisions of an employee makes no sense whatsoever. Generally, employees don't have to share all of their medical conditions. Even if they did, they should not have the standing or authority to make medical decisions for their employees. (Other than, perhaps, stay home if you don't feel good.)

And what happens if I mandate a vaccine, one of the employees gets it, then is disabled, or worse, dies. I would have caused an injury to another person because of a policy I made up. Would I be liable for the injury? If I were, I should be able to sue the manufacturer if I were sued. But liability has been waived for the manufacture and administration of the Covid vaccines.

For childhood vaccines, the Vaccine Injury Compensation Panel was set up by Reagan to deal with the lack of liability to the manufacturers, and they have paid out more than \$4.5 Billion over the years. For the experimental Covid vaccine, the government's CICIP program is the one to which a claim could be made, but it is a barely funded program and rarely pays. Since there is risk to all medical treatments, I should not be the one to tell another what to do.

So the current situation leaves me in an unfortunate position which HB1171 fixes. If someone wants a vaccine, great! If someone doesn't, great! In neither case is their decision my problem and I don't have to get between any employee and their doctor.

Please support HB1171

Steve Bress

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