

March 5, 2021

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

I am writing today to request a FAVORABLE REPORT for HB 1171.

I support HB 1171 for many reasons, but most importantly I believe that people should always have a choice when it comes to a medical treatment. Your health, your choice! Especially in this situation when these vaccines are still in the experimental Phase 3 trial stage and have NO long-term data on safety and efficacy. Vaccines are not a one size fits all solution to this pandemic or to an individual's personal health.

Both Pfizer and Moderna and now Johnson and Johnson are novel types of vaccines. There are no other mRNA and adenovirus viruses that are FDA approved on the market; meaning this is the 1st time they are being used on a mass scale in the human population. All 3 of these vaccines have an Emergency Authorization Usage approval, which means they are not fully FDA approved yet. You may be able to speed up the process of producing vaccines, but you cannot speed up safety trials, this takes time, and we should be allowed the wait for the final trial results to be analyzed. The Phase 3 trial results will not be available until 2023 for Pfizer and J & J and late 2022 for Moderna.

There are too many unknowns, including how long the immunity protection will last, do the vaccines prevent transmission, do they prevent infection? The vaccine trials were not designed to answer these questions because they were rushed! The only thing the trials were designed to do was show whether they could reduce severity of symptoms...period!

Moreover, all 3 of these vaccine manufacturers are shielded from any and all liability. Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson were granted total immunity per the Federal Government's PREP Act in exchange for rushing the product to market. That is unacceptable! They should be able to stand by their product that they are making billions of dollars on and take responsibility, if something goes wrong. So, who is going to help me or anyone else, if I am forced to take a vaccine that potentially has a serious or life-threatening injury? Will my employer's worker comp policy cover a hospital stay, chronic disability, etc.?

I am a teacher, and I am worried and concerned about school systems mandating these vaccines for adults and children alike. This is a profession I have been working in for close to 15 years and I do not and cannot afford to be put in a position where I would be forced to take this product or else be terminated.

HB1171 is a bill that will allow freedom of choice for the employee and liability protection for the employers, in the event a worker does contract COVID. In my eyes, this is a win-win bill for everyone.

Please support HB 1171!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tracy Barr  
Towson, MD 21286