

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.

The COVID-19 vaccines are still in a Phase 3 clinical trial and will be until late 2022/early 2023. Many American workers, like myself are very concerned about not having the long-term safety studies from the completed trials before making a decision to take these experimental vaccines.

I am the bread winner in my home, and I cannot be put in a position by my employer to either take the vaccine or lose my job. We need more time to determine whether these vaccines are effective at preventing transmission and spread of the virus. There are still many unknowns at this point, and individuals should have the right and the freedom to decide to take this product.

Both Pfizer and Moderna are novel types of mRNA vaccines, using brand new platforms for vaccination. Even the Johnson and Johnson vaccine is using a new adenovirus platform and has not been used in the mass human population. At present time, there are no other mRNA and adenovirus vaccines that are FDA approved on the market.

My understanding is that Pfizer, Moderna & J & J are not liable for any injuries and/or deaths per the Federal Government's PREP Act in the event a person has a debilitating injury from being forced to take this vaccine. So, who will be responsible if a worker is injured? Will my employer's worker comp policy cover a hospital stay, chronic disability, or pay out death benefits?

My perspective is that 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. I think this is a responsible piece of legislation for all Marylanders.

I urge you to please support HB 1171!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bryan T. Barr

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