

March 5, 2021

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

I am writing to request a favorable vote for HB1171.

With the emergency-use vaccination authorized by the FDA, I have become increasingly concerned about employers mandating employees to be vaccinated in order to maintain their job and career.

I have dedicated twenty-four years of my life as an educator, working for the public school system. I am a very hardworking professional with a passion for helping students and families. I am far from ready to end my career, and I am afraid that I will be forced to quit my job if I am mandated to take the new mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. **I do not believe that any profession or anyone should be singled out and forced to undergo any medical procedure.**

Since the very beginning of this pandemic, I have continued to act responsibly, wear my mask, and maintain a safe distance while conducting home visits to deliver food, computer devices, and internet hotspots to my students. I have never refused to wear a mask, nor have I been recklessly going out to bars or restaurants. I am, however, one who has a lot of concerns about this new vaccine. And before you dismiss me as misinformed, please consider the fact that no one knows the long-term effects this vaccine will have. It will take years for this information to be truly known. Until that time, I do not think that any employer has the right to force their employees to take this vaccine in order to maintain their employment.

In our household, it is largely my salary which pays our mortgage and supports our 12- and 10-year-old children. My job provides our family's medical benefits and, one day in the future, our retirement plan. If I must suddenly quit my job, I have no idea what my family will do or what my husband and I will do, as we age, to ensure care.

In a recent press conference, Governor Hogan shared information about schools across this country, opening safely, throughout this pandemic, even without vaccinations. He wanted all schools in Maryland opened by March 1st and said schools could safely do so without vaccination.

I am asking that you consider the lives and opinions of educators who have dedicated their lives to students and families and, respectfully, let us make our own informed decision on when we decide to take this vaccine.

Sincerely,

Christie Carr

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