



Secular Maryland

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HB 1376 - OPPOSE

Labor and Employment - COVID-19 Vaccinations - Exemption Process (No Jobs for Jobs)

Dear Chair Pendergrass, Vice-Chair Pena-Melnyk, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

This bill includes a provision labeled Article - Labor and Employment 3-718(c)(2) "PROOF OF IMMUNITY FROM COVID-19, INCLUDING THE PRESENCE OF ANTIBODIES, THAT IS CERTIFIED EVERY 3 MONTHS BY A LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROVIDER". The Food and Drug Administration has authorized the use of Covid antibody tests, which can cost about \$70, to detect past infections. Some tests can distinguish whether the antibodies came from infections or vaccines. But neither the FDA nor the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend using the tests to assess whether you're, in fact, immune to Covid. For that, the tests are essentially useless, because there's no agreement on the amount or the types of antibodies that would signal protection from the disease. "We don't yet have full understanding of what the presence of antibodies tells us about immunity," said Kelly Wroblewski, the director of infectious diseases at the Association of Public Health Laboratories. By the same token, experts disagree about how much protection an infection delivers.

Let's listen to, respect, and follow the advice of the real experts and not create any laws that substitute for, overrule, or contradict, their advice.

Respectfully,
Mathew Goldstein
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