

Melissa King  
Potomac, MD 20854

January 18, 2022

Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Ave  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

and

Montgomery County Board of Education  
Carver Education Building  
850 Hungerford Drive  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Council Members & Board of Education Members,

I am writing to object to the proposal to enforce vaccine mandates in Montgomery County and in Montgomery County Public Schools. As elected Council Members and BOE members who represents the citizens of the County, I implore you to reject the recommendation to push legislation and policy forward that would entice or require students, citizens, and residents to become vaccinated and show proof of vaccination in order to enjoy life in Montgomery County. An overwhelming majority of the community in which you serve is vehemently opposed to this legislation and policy.

Collective and emerging scientific evidence illustrates:

- The Omicron variant's ability to transmit easily but only displays symptoms of a cold to most and will help communities to achieve herd immunity better than vaccinations would.
- Severe related illnesses like SARS and the more severe MERS were short-lived epidemics and resolved without vaccine intervention.
- Points 1 & 2 might be interpolated to illustrate that we may be very close to seeing the end of SARS Vov-2.
- The evolution of respiratory viruses as they mutate and become new variants is typically shown to produce weaker variants that people with normal immune systems are able to tolerate better. We will have a community of people more adapted to endure future variants with or without vaccinations.
- The medical field has gained significant knowledge on how to treat individuals hospitalized with SARS-Cov-2 to prevent fatalities.
- Medical knowledge and advancements have produced new anti-viral medications specifically for SARS-Cov-2.
- SARS-Cov-2 was not stopped from spreading to America early in the pandemic. Now that this virus is here, it is something that is proving to evolve similarly to the flu and we will need to accept and adapt to this reality.

Community effects of passing "proof of vaccination" legislation:

- Requiring patrons to show proof of COVID vaccinations will be unequivocally detrimental to the economy and to our County's businesses.
- Employees forced to show proof of COVID vaccinations against personal beliefs will create additional losses for our local economy as workers choose employment elsewhere.
- With the SARS-Cov-2 variants that have evolved and are evolving, there is no circumstantial evidence that vaccinations will be effective.
- Passing this legislation would be a significant move away from true democratic leadership. Voting county members will re-evaluate voting choices and this decision may even affect where people choose to live, creating an exodus of the county.
- Requiring any vaccination "passport" sets a precedence that individuals no longer have the right to make their own decisions regarding their body.

I appreciate your taking the time to read my concerns.

Sincerely,

Melissa King