

You must reject this unconstitutional, unnecessary, meritless, blatant abuse of power attempting to mandate proof of vaccination in order to enjoy and carry out the normal activities of regular daily life. The absolute most important reason for the opposition to this is simply the fact that you are literally discriminating against a minority group of law-abiding citizens. An act which your constituents are protected against by the Constitution, specifically the 14th Amendment. You simply do not have the power to infringe upon my civil liberties and unalienable rights. It's as simple as that.

Furthermore, as it pertains to the business community, of which I belong to as a small business owner in Bethesda:

Why in the world would you think it's a good idea to impose more restrictions on local businesses after the incredibly difficult past 2 years that they've had, much of which is a direct result of the "emergency policies" that *you* put in place 2 years ago, such as locking people down in their homes ("2 weeks to stop the spread") so they couldn't patronize any of the businesses, or literally shutting down portions of these small businesses (or in entirety), while giant corporations were allowed to operate and made out like bandits? These businesses have finally made it this far, through the worst of it, and now you want to cut the amount of people that can go there once again. Where is the logic there?

It also hurts service businesses, like mine, who meet with people at restaurants regularly in order to conduct business. Is there a single business out there that doesn't have an expense line for meals & entertainment? Not only will I no longer be allowed into restaurants, but even if I did have proof of vaccination, what if the person I'm meeting isn't vaccinated? Am I supposed to now ask people for their private medical information before setting each meeting? This type of restriction would adversely affect all businesses in some way, not just the ones the mandate is physically being applied to. Funny that we (the legislative committee of the Bethesda Chamber) were just discussing a proposed bill that wants to make it illegal to ask for someone's education level on a job application... *that's* what's over line for you, but not the issue of medical privacy?

Quick bullet to re-emphasize that someone's vaccination status is private medical information. Do I now have to trust that type of information with a high-school-aged hostess at the entrance to a restaurant? What types of compliance protections are going to be enforced on all of these businesses who are now handling private medical information? Any consideration to that? How much is that going to cost them?

What about all the business these businesses will be losing from losing all the people outside the county who are visiting, traveling through, here on business from out of county, or simply stopping in to a popular restaurant from one county over, who do not have vaccine mandates where they are from? Montgomery County is a very popular destination and businesses regularly benefit from visitors. Now they lose all of that business too? Not even just the unvaccinated visitors, but vaccinated visitors who literally don't need proof of a vaccine in order to simply exist in their town. Any consideration given there? Never thought I'd ever hear "show me your papers" in *this* country...

How is this mandate logically going to be enforced? You politicians keep changing the definition of "fully vaccinated", so really how does any person know, vaccinated or not, whether or not they'll be able to visit these businesses on any given day in the future? You could change it from "2 doses" to "2 doses plus a booster" tomorrow, as the federal government's definition keeps changing. How are you going to get that communication out to all businesses and employees of that business instantly? Will every employee now be liable for making a mistake and letting a mere "2 dose, not fully vaccinated" person in because they weren't aware of the latest overnight change in "science"? Is the business going to be fined because of that mistake? How does anyone trust you or the mandate in even just this one regard? Are you also going to add on specialized training that all small business employees have to go through regularly and everytime the "science" changes, or to spot fake vaccine cards, to ensure proper enforcement of the mandate and costing the company even more time and money in order to continually remain compliant? How much more, exactly, will these businesses end up paying for all of these rules being put in place "for their own benefit"?

Montgomery County is about 80% vaccinated, if you're using the excuse that this is to stop the spread of Covid and we have more cases now than ever, then the vaccines clearly don't work as it pertains to stopping the spread (and also that the vast majority of cases are actually in the *vaccinated*), and then there's definitely no justification for mandating it in order to patronize a business. Why is there no consideration given for the natural immunity that people have developed from getting Covid? The CDC has publicly admitted natural immunity to Covid is real (and "science"!). The CDC has also publicly admitted that 75% of all Covid deaths have occurred in people with 4 or more comorbidities. Covid does not affect the entire population in the same ways, like a blanket regulatory policy does. Do I get a natural immunity card to show to businesses? Why not? Where is the logic there? Where is the "science" there? Even Councilmember Andrew Friedson is on record supporting getting rid of the *mask* mandate once the county reaches 80% vaccination rate. He supports a vaccine mandate at 80% vaccinated, but not a mask mandate?

The Supreme Court just shot down Biden's own attempt at mandating vaccines for businesses, do you not take that into consideration whatsoever? That perhaps there is a reason they blocked that attempt? If this were about public safety and stopping the spread of Covid, you would mandate *people* get the vaccine, not mandate that businesses require proof of it in order for people to enter. But you don't mandate that because you can't, it is unconstitutional. So is this mandate, but in this case you don't need individual people to comply, you only need to threaten businesses with fines to enforce it for you. It's merely an attempt to coerce people into getting vaccinated by inconveniencing them. There is no actual logic or justification behind it.

If a business wants to independently institute a mandate in order to enter it, then they are free to do so. Tommy Joes did it, and they lost so much business because of it they then reversed their own policy within a month or so. If that's not proof enough that this will hurt, not help, businesses, and that you aren't doing this because you care about protecting the businesses,

but instead are implementing unjustifiable and arbitrary measures to coerce the population into complying with your majority groupthink of how you want them to exist, I don't know what is. You can let the business choose to do it if they want to, but the government mandating that all businesses do it is simply not a power that they have. Freedom of choice is fundamental to the Constitution of this country, as is civil liberty. The fact that we've even reached this point where they actually believe you have the power to do any of this is truly sad and disgusting, and I will certainly not be supporting any organization that voluntarily supports discrimination of any kind against any person, which apparently is only illegal in this country for every other type of discrimination *except* for this one now.

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