

I am addressing the effects a vaccine passport will have upon small businesses. As the daughter of a small business owners, I am no stranger to this topic. My approach for this testimony will mainly consist of subtopics and questions.

Subtopic 1: The business owner who refuses to be vaccinated for personal or religious reasons

Q –

- What becomes of his/her business?
 - Will the business owner be required to hire someone to replace him/her as he/she will NOT be able to enter his/her office or restaurant space?
 - What if the business owner has purchased the space/building? Will the same rules apply?

Subtopic 2: The independent contractor/small business owner working from home

Q-

- Will the county interfere if this person holds in-home meetings that are not virtual?
- What if this person travels to others?
 - Must this person ONLY visit clients who remain unvaccinated?

Subtopic 3: The “passport bouncer” at the door and follow-up measures

Q –

- Will small businesses be required to hire such a person?
 - Will training be required to detect which passports are fake?
- If the passport is a fake, will the business be required to call the police?
 - Will police have enough employees to address these calls? Has anyone in the county council addressed this issue with the Montgomery County Police Department?
- What if a business refuses to check passports?
 - Will it be shut down?
- What if a business cannot accurately determine which passports are real and which are fake?
 - Will the business be fined?
 - What is the fee?
 - How many warnings until the county shuts down the business for too many violations?
- What about drive-through orders?
 - Will customers be asked to show their passports before ordering?

Subtopic 4: County oversight

Q –

- Will the county need to create a vaccine passport oversight agency to ensure compliance?
 - If so, what is the estimated cost?
- Will employees be assigned to specific districts, for example?
- And how might compliance be handled in order to NOT violate privacy issues?

Subtopic 5: Privacy

Q:

- Will all job applicants be asked to provide copies of their vaccination status to each employer?
 - Who ensures this information is stored safely?
 - Who ensures the information is accurate and updated?
- Although the EU has stated that excessive boosters may actually adversely affect immune response, should boosters be “mandated” every few months, how will small businesses be able to handle compliance without violating privacy?

Subtopic 6: Fleeing the county

Q–

- Is the end goal to support businesses in **surrounding** counties?
 - Montgomery County is large. People will flee to Frederick, Howard, Anne Arundel and Prince Georges counties for shopping and entertainment.
- Simply put, not all vaccinated people are in favor of this measure. Many, in fact, were forced to vaccinate to feed their families and to keep a house over their heads.
 - How many people in Montgomery County fit this category?
- Shouldn't the county survey who is in favor of what?
 - By survey, I mean an accurate and FAIR assessment that encourages everyone with different perspectives to respond.
 - Why wasn't this proposed mandate officially presented TO the people in a fair manner that allowed them time to research the ramifications?

Once people flee the county, they will never return should this passport become effective in January 2022.