

Montgomery County Council  
110 Maryland Ave., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

Topic: Vaccination Requirements to Enter Bars, Restaurants, Recreation Centers, and Other Covered Establishments

Dear Council Member,

While I have personally been vaccinated and boosted, I strongly oppose the proposed measure that would impose a proof of vaccination requirement for entry into restaurants, fitness centers, conference centers, and certain other public facilities.

I have numerous friends who have, with good reason and conscience, declined to receive any of the currently available vaccines. I see this as an undue imposition and hardship on them and could impact my own decision as to what venues to enter when accompanied by my friends. This ultimately will have a severe impact on the restaurants and other small businesses who will lose customers and revenue because of this constraint. These businesses are already under tremendous pressure and I'm hearing of more and more establishments permanently closing, a situation that will only be made worse by this measure.

The Maryland Coronavirus Dashboard indicates that case numbers and positivity rates in Montgomery County (as well as statewide) appear to have peaked and are starting to decline. The Omicron variant has been very widespread while having only mild impact on most of those who catch it. If this measure is passed, it should include a definite check point sunset clause so that it does not persist long after its perceived necessity. It may be, however, that that time has already passed.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Joseph P. Gillin  
2 Castle Cliff Court  
Silver Spring, MD 20904