

Written testimony for Jan. 18, 2022, resolution to adopt a Board of Health Regulation to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 in the County-Vaccination Requirements to Enter Bars, Restaurants, Fitness Centers and Other Covered Establishments.

By Katherine Berry, Rockville, Md

It seems that COVID-19 has moved from an emergency situation that we didn't know much about, but it sounded dangerous, to a situation that we need to learn to live with, but that has become political. Many people are scared because of the relentless news we hear about all the deaths, and the relentless announcements that we can control it with enough vaccinations, enough masks, and enough rules. I believe that time is past.

I read many different sources, and I believe that some people aren't at much risk of severe disease (including most children), lots of people have already had and recovered from COVID-19 (and therefore, have immunity, that has nothing to do with how many vaccines they have received). The proposed Montgomery County requirement doesn't take any of the above into consideration.

In addition, I don't believe the Montgomery County proposed regulation has considered the enormous burden that will be placed on small businesses, especially, who will somehow need to enforce the rule, and lose business because of it.

I personally will not be showing my medical records to store employees for any reason. We are moving further into the arena of taking our freedoms away. My doctor and I can evaluate my need to protect myself better than the Montgomery County government. Your argument may be that you are protecting others from me, but perhaps you should remind yourselves that the vaccination does not prevent spread, that has been well documented at this point.

Please take another look at the proposed regulation, and let us get back to letting the people have individual freedom, there is enough information out in the open for people to make their own decisions about their health and the health of their family members.

Thank you.