Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council Member,

I am writing to object the proposal to enforce vaccine passports in Montgomery County. As an elected council member who represents the citizens of the County, I implore you to reject the council's recommendation to push this legislation forward in understanding that an overwhelming majority of the community in which you serve are vehemently opposed.

Collective and emerging scientific evidence has illustrated that:

1. The Omicron variant's ability to transmit easily but only give symptoms of a cold (see CDC statements identifying Omicron as a mild variant) to most will help communities to achieve herd immunity better than vaccinations.
2. Severe related illnesses like SARS (SARS-Cov), and the more severe MERS (MERS-Cov), were short-lived epidemics and resolved without vaccine intervention (2002-2004 and 2012 respectively).
3. Points 1 and 2 can be interpolated to illustrate that we are very close to seeing the end of the SARS-Cov-2 (COVID) pandemic without forced vaccinations.
4. 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.
5. The medical field has gained significant knowledge on how to treat individuals hospitalized with SARS-Cov-2 to prevent fatalities.
6. Medical knowledge and advancements have produced new anti-viral medications specifically for SARS-Cov-2.
7. 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 this as fact.

Community effects of passing "proof of vaccination" legislation:

1. Requiring patrons to show proof of COVID vaccinations will be unequivocally detrimental to the economy of businesses affected by the legislation in our community. County residents will easily become patrons of businesses in adjacent counties.
2. Employees forced to show proof of COVID vaccinations against personal beliefs will create additional losses for our local economy as workers choose employment elsewhere.
3. With the SARS-Cov-2 variants that have evolved and are evolving, there is no circumstantial evidence that vaccinations will remain effective. This creates an endless cycle of forcing COVID vaccine boosters and showing proof to enter businesses, which is extremely hypocritical in relation to flu and other vaccinations.
4. Despite a mostly democratic demographic in Montgomery County, an exceptionally large number of individuals are against forced vaccination, regardless of their vaccination status.
5. 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 out of the county.
6. Requiring any vaccination "passport" sets a precedence that individuals no longer have the rights to make their own decisions regarding their body.

I appreciate your taking the time to read my concerns. I enjoy being a resident of Montgomery County and entrust you to realize that rejecting the COVID vaccination requirement for entering businesses will be most beneficial in helping this county recover from the past couple of years.

Sincerely,