

1/23/2022

To: Montgomery County MD Council

Montgomery County citizens have already made their choices on vaccination. This regulation, if enforced, will not have its intended effect of raising the vaccination rate materially. It *will* have the unintended negative effect of damaging local businesses that have already been decimated by the pandemic.

Not a *single person that I know* who is still unvaccinated is going to become vaccinated in order to be allowed into a covered establishment in Montgomery County. They will simply adapt their lifestyles. The folks we are talking about are willing to lose their jobs or take their employers to court to defend their freedom to turn the vaccines down. "Not going somewhere" is a piece of cake for them.

On the other hand, this is the same group of people who, in my observation, have not been afraid to go out into the world over the past two years compared with others. This is a personal observation, but it is validated time after time for me. These are real patrons who have not stopped supporting local businesses throughout the pandemic.

There is another group we must consider when estimating potential effects on local commerce: those who are already vaccinated but who are opposed to a passport system on civil liberty grounds. This group is much like the former in that they will not contribute to an increase in vaccinations, but they will stand up for their beliefs.

To summarize:

My prediction for the positive impact of the regulation if it were to go into effect:

**Zero**

My prediction for the negative impact to local businesses:

**Worse than you think**

Sincerely,

Ben Creitz