

I am reaching out in response to Montgomery County Board of Health Regulation Vaccination Requirements to Enter Bars, Restaurants, Fitness Centers, and Other Covered Establishments. This proposed regulation will further burden businesses from operating and fully recovering from the pandemic.

Vaccinations are not something that should be policed by local businesses. When people chose to dine out, they want a memorable meal and genuine hospitality. Our Teams and our Guests should not be made to comply to a vaccination requirement in exchange for a dining experience in their local communities. This is not something that our restaurants should be in charge of when we are still fighting to recover from the impact that this pandemic continues to cause on our daily operations.

In addition, restaurant and retail establishments continue to fight for staff and forcing them to police someone's vaccination status will make it even more difficult to attract employees to the hospitality industry. If a guest opposes this regulation, it can and will cause disruption to our businesses and potential harm to those who are involved.

The restaurant industry proudly serves millions of guests every day and follows food safety and sanitation guidelines as set by the CDC, FDA, Department of Public Health and State Executive Orders. We will continue to follow all CDC and local guidelines to keep our communities safe while still proudly serving them. Please allow us the opportunity to do so responsibly and without imposing further regulations on our business.

Best,
Jessica Smith