

27 February 2022

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing to express my support of 2 upcoming House Bills:

- **March 2nd Hearing in [House Health & Insurance Committee](#) at 1:30 PM in House Committee Room 0112**
- 1) **I SUPPORT [HB 1144](#), Requires employers and state agencies who require COVID-19 vaccination or testing to accept proof of natural immunity in lieu of these requirements, and ask you do the same.**
 - I understand this bill would require employers and state agencies who require COVID-19 vaccines or testing as a condition of employment to accept proof of natural immunity against COVID-19 in place of vaccines or testing.
 - The proof of natural immunity may consist of either (1) documentation showing that an individual tested positive for COVID-19, or (2) documentation of a serology test and T-cell testing, as well as other testing and technologies that become available, which provide proof of a previous COVID-19 infection.
 - I do not support allowing employers to mandate vaccines. However, this bill would at least provide one option for employees in Colorado who are being forced to get a COVID-19 vaccine or submit to regular testing. Please support the concept of making past immunity equivalent to being vaccinated in states that refuse to prohibit COVID-19 vaccine mandates. Bills introduced in the Colorado Legislature the past two years that would have prohibited vaccine mandates by employers, [SB 84](#) in 2020 and [HB 1191](#) in 2021, died in the Senate State Affairs Committee and the House Health and Insurance Committee.
 - Even the Centers for Disease Control is now recognizing the [benefits of natural immunity](#) against COVID-19.
 - In late 2021, the CDC reported that [over 146 million Americans had been infected with COVID-19](#) and they have [no evidence that any person with natural immunity due to past infection has been able to transmit the virus](#) to another individual.
 - A [June 2021 preprint study](#) conducted by the Cleveland Clinic Health System involving 52,238 employees found that *"Not one of the 1,359 previously infected subjects who remained unvaccinated had a [Covid-19] infection over the duration of the study"* and **vaccination did not reduce the risk, and persons previously infected with SARS-CoV-2 were unlikely to benefit from COVID-19 vaccination.**
 - An August 25, 2021 [Israeli retrospective study](#), yet to undergo peer review, found that natural immunity *"confers longer lasting and stronger protection against infection, symptomatic disease, and hospitalization caused by the Delta variant."*

- COVID-19 vaccines [fail to stop infection or transmission](#) of the SARS-COV-2 virus, so protection from infection recovery is showing to be superior to vaccination and it should be recognized.
- Natural immunity has long been recognized as superior to vaccine induced immunity. Vaccines have **not** been recommended to health care workers who have obtained natural immunity for infections such as [measles, mumps, rubella,](#) and [chicken pox](#). Survivors of the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic still had [protective immunity 90 years later](#).
- [1000 peer reviewed studies questioning COVID-vaccine safety for some individuals.](#)

I have spent 40 years of my life as a child and spouse sacrificing to preserve the freedoms of the western world, I when I naturalized as a citizen of this country 7 years ago, I took my promises and commitments to the United States with conviction.

To live in a free nation is to have the freedom of choice with regards to our God-given bodies, the right to personal risk assessment, with informed consent, as this vaccine is not a one size fits all, and to not be coerced or threatened through the loss of one's job or career. This is discrimination and everything for which the United States stands.

[VAERS](#) shows that this vaccine is **NOT** safe for everyone. Most recent data shows a total of [1,119,063 reports of adverse events](#) following COVID vaccines were submitted between Dec. 14, 2020, and Feb. 11, 2022. VAERS is the primary government-funded system for reporting adverse vaccine reactions in the U.S.

My entire family contracted COVID-19 in February 2021. We have been exposed multiple times to the virus since then and have remained healthy. Meanwhile, many of our fully vaccinated friends have contracted the virus.

I personally have poor reactions to vaccines and have not had a vaccine in over 25 years. I have had only 2 flu shots in my lifetime and each time I was sick with flu like symptoms for 9 months. As a baby, I had mumps and measles after receiving the vaccines. The COVID vaccine is therefore more of a risk to my health than the virus itself. I contracted the Alpha variant, recovered at home and was back to intense exercise after 2 weeks. As an American citizen, I should have the right choose to make an informed decision about what is best for my health and not be demonized for doing so.

How can you mandate a vaccine when does not prevent infection or transmission and threaten/blame those who have enacted their freedom to make an informed choice?

I am in support of [HB 1144](#) and I'm asking you to do the same.

Kind Regards,
Anna Aspnes.



COLORADO
PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

February 28, 2022

Rep. Susan Lontine, Chair
House Health and Insurance Committee
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

RE: House Bill 22-1144, House Bill 22-1015 and House Bill 22-1100

Dear Rep. Lontine and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for your public service to Colorado. On behalf of the Colorado Public Health Association (CPHA) and our 650 members across the state, we are writing to share concerns with several bills related to immunizations and COVID-19 response that the House Health & Insurance Committee will consider over the next several weeks. Accumulated scientific discoveries and technology have led to the rapid advancements in the development of a safe and effective vaccines that have substantially curbed transmission of COVID-19 and markedly reduce hospitalizations and death from this disease. At CPHA, one of our key policy priorities this year is to advance public health policy efforts that protect access to immunizations and promote best practices for reducing vaccine-preventable diseases. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our feedback on the following bills related to COVID-19.

House Bill 22-1144 – Natural Immunity – Oppose

CPHA opposes this bill as there is insufficient scientific data to unequivocally state that natural infection has an equivalent degree of protection compared with being up to date on a COVID-19 vaccine. Receiving a COVID-19 vaccination provides the best level of protection against the virus. While recovering from COVID-19 may give someone a natural immunity to the virus, the immunity might not last more than a few months. It is possible to get COVID-19 again even if you have already recovered from the illness. This policy creates a risky standard for Colorado employers and it could lead to outbreaks in workplaces and in health-sensitive environments like healthcare facilities. Until there is more sound scientific study and data, this bill could, theoretically, create higher risk situations for employers by accepting a lower standard of protection for workplace settings.

House Bill 22-1100 – Employer COVID-19 Policies – Oppose

Respectfully, CPHA is opposed to this legislation that could have harmful public health implications for current pandemic response. Fundamentally, CPHA believes that employers have the right to seek to protect workers and the public from the unique threat of COVID-19. This far-reaching bill could have harmful consequences that could significantly limit how employers can create workplace health and safety policies for employees as well as for their clients and customers. House Bill 22-1100 could severely impact our state and local communities' ability to mitigate COVID-19 transmission and opens up an unnecessarily litigious approach to reasonable public health measures that employers should continue to have the right to establish.

House Bill 22-1015 – Off-Label Use – Oppose

CPHA is opposed to this legislation which is an unnecessary proposal that integrates harmful COVID-19 misinformation into state law. First, a licensed healthcare provider already has the ability to prescribe off-label use of a licensed drug or medication. This bill is not necessary for a clinician to make a decision to prescribe off-label. Additionally, as you may know, there are existing protocols for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to authorize or approve pharmaceuticals for human consumption. Ivermectin tablets have FDA approval to treat parasitic worms in humans, and both ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine sulfate are commonly known in the agricultural and ranching community as important veterinary medicine tools for maintaining livestock health.

However, neither of these drugs have been approved for the use or treatment of COVID-19, and unfortunately false information about these drugs over the course of the pandemic has led to cases of people incorrectly using these drugs and later requiring hospital care for adverse health effects. Adverse health effects can include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, hypotension, allergic reactions, dizziness, ataxia, seizures, coma and even death. The science does not support ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine sulfate use for COVID-19 and this bill could set a dangerous precedent for sidestepping FDA procedures for clinical trials and authorization of approved uses for pharmaceuticals. We respectfully request you to vote no on House Bill 22-1015.

Vaccines are one of our generation's most cost-effective tools that we have to curb the spread of illness and death associated with COVID-19. Please join us in maintaining strong support for best practice immunization and pandemic response policies that can keep Coloradans healthy and allow businesses to remain safely open. Thank you for your consideration of our comments. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Amy Pitlik, contract lobbyist for CPHA at amy@mendezbarkis.com.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jason Vitello
President
Colorado Public Health Association



HB22-1144 Naturally Acquired Immunity COVID-19

Wednesday March 2nd, 2022

House Health & Insurance

1:30 pm | HCR 0112

Madam Chair and fellow members of the Colorado House Health & Insurance Committee. The following comments are submitted on behalf of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce.

For 154 years, the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce has been a leading voice for Colorado's business community, advocating for sound policy that strengthens our economy and makes our state the best place to live, work and do business.

We are writing today to express the Chamber's opposition to HB22-1144.

As you are aware, this bill requires an employer or a state agency that imposes a COVID-19 vaccine or testing requirement to allow a person subject to the requirement to instead provide documentation demonstrating that the person has naturally acquired immunity to the disease.

We firmly believe that businesses have the right to decide the best way to protect their employees. An employer's requirements may depend on the nature of the worksite and the likelihood of COVID-19 exposure. Ultimately, employers are responsible for the safety of their workers on the job.

Allowing a certain set of employees different privileges and protections creates a logistical headache for many of the very businesses hit hardest by the pandemic. This proposed policy also allows employees to punish businesses for deciding the best way to protect their profits and private property. Mandating a one-size-fits-all approach on this issue takes away the ability for businesses to decide what is best for themselves and the health and safety of their employees.

We urge the members of the committee to vote no on HB22-1144.

Sincerely,

Adam Burg
Vice President of Government Affairs
Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

House Health & Insurance

03/02/2022 01:30 PM

HB22-1144 Naturally Acquired Immunity COVID-19

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Rita Widmann For Self	<p>Accept proof of natural immunity by a serology test or T-cell test or other.</p> <p>The CDC now recognizes the benefits of natural immunity against CV-19.</p> <p>Covid -19 injection failed to stop infection or transmission.</p> <p>Since 1918 Spanish flu's natural immunity has been protecting folks. That is over 90 years of it is recognized protection.</p>
Jody Davison For Self	<p>My family all tested positive for COVID in December and were able to care for ourselves and each other through recovery at home. More than 140 scientific studies reflect that we are "naturally immune" and that our protection is superior to those who have been vaccinated - or 'vaccine immune' population, and reinfection has been proven to be rare.</p> <p>Additionally, countries that have instituted severe COVID restrictions also acknowledge natural immunity, like Germany.</p> <p>This shot had the medical community actually rewrite the definition of 'vaccine'. Let's not have to also redefine "herd immunity". Historically, the very concept of "Herd Immunity" is based upon scientific studies of naturally acquired immunity within a given community. To deny naturally acquired immunity is to deny both historical precedent and science.</p> <p>My family has a rare genetic condition and I have had two family members experience cardiac vaccine harm. My five year old daughter has the same condition. As a healthy child who has recovered from COVID, she is at little risk of reinfection or transmission and high risk of vaccine harm. We have received all other required vaccines on schedule, but should not have to do so with this new shot. Without the support of a legislation like this, I fear that I may have to decide between an unwanted risky medical procedure and my child's right to in-person education.</p> <p>I can't help but wonder if the goal is to have people get shots no matter their risk or personal scenario, or if the goal is to actually limit the transmission of COVID? In an aim to actually limit transmission, I urge you to vote in favor of demonstrating natural immunity.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Jennifer Dooley For Self	<p>I understand that bills introduced in the Colorado Legislature the past two years that would have prohibited vaccine mandates by employers,</p>

	<p>SB 84 in 2020 and HB 1191 in 2021, died in the Senate State Affairs Committee and the House Health and Insurance Committee.</p> <p>Today, even the Centers for Disease Control is now recognizing the benefits of natural immunity against COVID-19.</p> <p>In late 2021, the CDC reported that over 146 million Americans had been infected with COVID-19 and they have no evidence that any person with natural immunity due to past infection has been able to transmit the virus to another individual.</p> <p>A June 2021 preprint study conducted by the Cleveland Clinic Health System involving 52,238 employees found that "Not one of the 1,359 previously infected subjects who remained unvaccinated had a [Covid-19] infection over the duration of the study" and vaccination did not reduce the risk, and persons previously infected with SARS-CoV-2 were unlikely to benefit from COVID-19 vaccination.</p> <p>An August 25, 2021 Israeli retrospective study, yet to undergo peer review, found that natural immunity "confers longer lasting and stronger protection against infection, symptomatic disease, and hospitalization caused by the Delta variant."</p> <p>COVID-19 vaccines fail to stop infection or transmission of the SARS-COV-2 virus, so protection from infection recovery is showing to be superior to vaccination and it should be recognized.</p> <p>Natural immunity has long been recognized as superior to vaccine induced immunity. Vaccines have not been recommended to health care workers who have obtained natural immunity for infections such as measles, mumps, rubella, and chicken pox. Survivors of the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic still had protective immunity 90 years later.</p>
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Written Testimony

Submitted by RxPlus Pharmacies

Oppose HB22- 1144

Founded in 1981 by a group of community pharmacists, RxPlus Pharmacies, Inc. is a member-owned cooperative buying group, offering pharmacy members personal services that promote the economic, professional, educational, and political advancement of community pharmacy. RxPlus Pharmacies' mission is to keep independent pharmacies in business

RxPlus Pharmacies has joined public health, business, and community leaders to oppose all vaccine misinformation legislation.

RxPlus believes that vaccines are our best hope to end the pandemic and eradicate preventable diseases. Our members oppose any legislation that misinforms the public and presents a danger to public health.

The application of science has led to the development of safe and effective vaccines and slowed the transmission of COVID-19. Legislation like HB22-1144, undermines the public's health. It provides misinformation to the public that is counter intuitive to promoting best practices for reducing vaccine-preventable diseases. RxPlus Pharmacies opposes any legislation that misinforms the public about the safety, efficacy, and benefits of vaccines.

There is insufficient scientific data to state that natural infection is equal to the protection of COVID-19 vaccines and boosters. HB22-1144 allows employers to accept proof of "natural immunity" through a positive covid-19 test. This is not only ill-advised, but it spreads misinformation about COVID tests, undermines the efficacy of COVID vaccines, and distorts the public's knowledge about the spread of COVID in our communities

RxPlus opposes HB22-1144 because it asserts information that is not scientifically based in fact.

Thank you for your time and opportunity to submit this testimony in opposition to HB22-1144.