

House Business Affairs & Labor

03/03/2022 01:30 PM

HB22-1201 Standards For Immunization Requirements

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Cristina Mccann Amend Self	<p>I do not support mandates regardless of what approval process, clinical trial or safety studies the vaccine has or has not gone through. A better option would be to amend this bill to prohibit vaccine mandates altogether.</p> <p>Legislation intended to fix the problem of vaccine mandates must not passively permit mandates to exist by simply allowing individuals to claim exemptions which are limited by nature and do not end up protecting everyone who objects to receiving a vaccine.</p> <p>Effective legislation that protects the medical freedom of individuals will ensure that there is no discrimination permitted toward anyone based on their vaccination status, period.</p>
Jennifer Dooley Amend Self	<p>I do not support mandates regardless of what approval process, clinical trial or safety studies the vaccine has or has not gone through. A better option would be to amend this bill to prohibit vaccine mandates altogether.</p> <p>Legislation intended to fix the problem of vaccine mandates must not passively permit mandates to exist by simply allowing individuals to claim exemptions which are limited by nature and do not end up protecting everyone who objects to receiving a vaccine.</p> <p>Effective legislation that protects the medical freedom of individuals will ensure that there is no discrimination permitted toward anyone based on their vaccination status, period.</p>
Amanda Lampley For Self	<p>To protect personal, private medical decisions and choices, as well as to protect personal bodily autonomy, this bill needs to pass.</p> <p>The recent, immoral, and frankly illegal (as the mandates have been stopped in courts), push to mandate the covid19 vaccine on individuals has been eye opening as to how little choice I have over my own personal body. The company I work for has mandated the shot, and they decided to force this on their employees because of the POTENTIAL mandate set by the current administration. Even though I had gotten a medical form signed, and wrote up several pages on why I was against getting forced to take a vaccine I wasn't ready to take, my request for exemption was denied. As if the executive leadership team and HR/legal 'professionals' know what's best for MY body (even after I had a DOCTOR provide a medical exemption).</p> <p>Vaccines should be personal choice. Period. Diets are not one-size-fits-all, exercise regimes are not one-size-fits-all, the way people learn is not one-size-fits-all, birth control is not one-size-fits-all, medical procedures are not one-size-fits-all, so what makes anyone think that a vaccine is acceptable to be forced on every single individual? It's not.</p>

	<p>People deserve the option to accept or decline a vaccine (and any other medical event that violates their personal bodily autonomy).</p> <p>The fact that vaccine manufacturers are not held liable for injury or death should be worrisome and a huge red flag to everyone.</p> <p>Preserve personal medical choice. my body. my choice.</p>
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27 February 2022

To Whom This May Concern,

I would like to express my support of Amending the upcoming House Bill:

- **March 3rd Hearing in [House Business Affairs & Labor Committee](#) at 1:30 PM in The Old State Library**
- 1) **I SUPPORT THE AMENDMENT [HB 1201](#), Allows exemptions to vaccine mandates based on certain FDA processes/clinical trials and lack of vaccine manufacturer liability.**
- I understand this bill would allow individuals to claim exemptions from vaccine mandates if:
 - (1) the vaccine has not been approved by the FDA;
 - (2) the vaccine has only received emergency use authorization;
 - (3) the manufacturer is not liable for injury or death caused by the vaccine; or
 - (4) the clinical trial the FDA relied upon to approve the vaccine did not evaluate its safety, for at least one year after the vaccine's administration, against a control group.
- The bill also requires the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to post this exemption criteria, along with information on injuries and death caused by the required vaccine, and whether the risk of permanent disability or death from the required immunization has been proven to be less than the risk of permanent disability or death from the infection or disease the immunization is intended to prevent.
- NVIC Advocacy does not support mandates regardless of what approval process, clinical trial or safety studies the vaccine has or has not gone through. A better option would be to amend this bill to prohibit vaccine mandates altogether.
- Legislation intended to fix the problem of vaccine mandates must not passively permit mandates to exist by simply allowing individuals to claim exemptions which are limited by nature and do not end up protecting everyone who objects to receiving a vaccine.
- Effective legislation that protects the medical freedom of individuals will ensure that there is no discrimination permitted toward anyone based on their vaccination status, period.

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 **AMENDMENT** of [HB 1201](#) and I'm asking you to do the same.

Kind Regards,
Anna Aspnes.



Biotechnology Innovation Organization
1201 Maryland Avenue SW
Suite 900
Washington, DC, 20024
202-962-9200

March 3, 2022

The Honorable Dylan Roberts
Chair, House Business Affairs and Labor Committee
State Capitol, 200 E Colfax
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Representative Roberts and Members of the Committee:

The Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) respectfully opposes HB22-1201, which would allow an individual to claim an unconditional exemption for any vaccine requirement, including requirements for school and childcare facility attendance, if one of several specified criteria apply to the vaccine. Establishing new nonmedical exemptions would result in reduced immunization rates among the population and, as a result, increased risk of preventable illness and death, increased health care costs, and increased costs to employers.

Vaccines are often cited as one of the most important medical interventions ever developed. Immunization of a *single year's* birth cohort with the currently recommended routine immunizations is estimated to prevent as many as 20 million illnesses and 42,000 early deaths.¹ These avoided illnesses and deaths save as much as \$13.5 billion in direct medical costs and \$68.8 billion in total societal costs, such as the cost of employee sick time for parents of ill children. This estimate does not even take into account the direct and indirect costs of school closures often necessary during outbreaks among populations with low immunization rates.

Protection against infectious diseases depends upon community immunity, and therefore state policies should facilitate high immunization rates. High immunization rates are important to obtain herd immunity from specific diseases and are especially critical for the protection of those who are unable to be vaccinated. These core principles, aimed at preventing unnecessary infectious disease outbreaks among the population at large, and particularly to ensure of the health and safety of our children, underlie school and childcare facility immunization requirements.

This bill would allow for an unconditional exemption from an immunization requirement if the manufacturer of a vaccine is "not subject to liability for death or injury caused by the [vaccine]." However, this would de facto apply to most immunization requirements and all childhood requirements. The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) is a federal "no-fault alternative to the traditional legal system for resolving vaccine injury petitions." The intent of this program is to make remedies available to persons who have had an adverse reaction to a vaccine while preventing lawsuits against vaccine manufacturers and health care providers that have in the past threatened vaccine access. Under the VICP, persons who believe they have

¹ Zhou F, Shefer A, Wenger J et al. Economic Evaluation of the Routine Childhood Immunization Program in the United States, 2009. *Pediatrics* Apr 2014, 133 (4) 577-585. <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/133/4/577.full.pdf>.

been injured by a vaccine can petition for compensation. Vaccine manufacturers can still be held directly liable under this program. Allowing individuals to be exempt from any immunization requirement for a vaccine covered by VICP would effectively negate all school and childcare facility immunization requirements.

Additionally, we have concerns with the exemption for vaccines that do not follow the clinical trial design standards in this bill. Vaccinations are held to high regulatory standards, making them one of the most effective and safe forms of preventive medicine. Vaccinations have led to a decrease or eradication of many significant infectious diseases such as polio, measles, mumps, and rubella. They are extensively tested for safety and efficacy prior to going on the market and continue to be monitored after introduction to the public. The United States is the international gold standard when it comes to vaccine safety and effectiveness because of the science-based regulatory roles of the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. State-level standards that differ from the expertise of the FDA and CDC are unnecessary and create the opportunity for confusion among patients and providers.

For these reasons, we ask for your “no” vote on HB22-1201. Please feel free to contact me with any questions that may arise.

Sincerely,



Brian Warren
Director, State Government Affairs
Biotechnology Innovation Organization



HB22-1201 Standards For Immunization Requirements

Thursday, March 3rd, 2022

House Business Affairs & Labor

1:30 pm | Old State Library

Mr. Chair and fellow members of the Colorado House Business Affairs & Labor committee. The following comments are submitted on behalf of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce and the Colorado Competitive Council (C3).

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 and C3's opposition to HB22-1201.

As you are aware, the bill allows individuals who are required to receive an immunization for any purpose to claim an exemption in certain outlined cases, and requires the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to post certain vaccine related data on its website.

We believe that businesses have the right to decide the best way to protect their employees and private property, and this bill creates an undue risk and burden for businesses that are trying to implement safe practices for their specific workplace.

Additionally, this bill complicates businesses' ability to adapt as the COVID-19 climate will continue to change. Businesses have already had to stay vigilant with the constantly evolving state and local ordinances surrounding COVID-19, and to impose a bill such as House Bill 1201 would add another layer of difficulty in managing workplace safety.

We urge the members of the committee to vote no on HB22-1201.

Sincerely,

Adam Burg

Vice President of Government Affairs & Interim Executive Director of the Colorado Competitive Council
Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce



COLORADO FOUNDATION FOR
UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

James R. Potter

Legislative Coordinator

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February 28, 2022

Re: Oppose HB22-1201

Dear Members of the House Health Business Affairs and Labor Committee:

The Colorado Foundation for Universal Health Care is a non-profit, non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to improving health care for all Coloradans. We believe that health care is a human right which requires that access be without financial and other barriers. We support legislation that makes health care more just and more accessible, while also realizing that the entire health care system needs fundamental reform to make it truly universal.

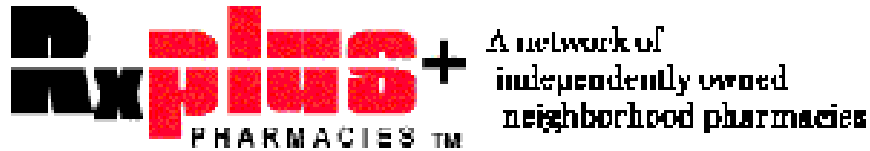
HB22-1201, in addition to other criteria, would allow for vaccination exemptions for anyone “for any purpose” simply because the vaccine has not been fully approved by the FDA or was “only” approved for emergency use. This exemption is unwarranted and over broad during a public health emergency such as the COVID pandemic.

An Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) requires that the FDA must determine that the known and potential benefits outweigh the known and potential risks of the vaccine and that there is adequate manufacturing information to ensure quality and consistency. The FDA made such a determination on December 11, 2020 for the use of the the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, on December 18, 2020 for the use of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, and on February 27, 2021 for the use of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. It was not until Aug. 23, 2021, that the FDA granted full approval to the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, and January 31, 2022, that the agency granted full approval for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. The Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine has not yet been fully approved.

During the interim period, between the EUA and full approval of the two vaccines, hundreds of thousands of lives were saved because of them. According to a recent study published by the Commonwealth Fund, “ In the absence of a vaccination program, there would have been approximately 1.1 million additional COVID-19 deaths and more than 10.3 million additional COVID-19 hospitalizations in the U.S. by November 2021.”
<https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2021/dec/us-covid-19-vaccination-program-one-year-how-many-deaths-and>

The exemptions proposed by HB22-1201 are without reasonable justification in light of these facts. If the exemptions granted by this bill had been extensively given during the period from the EUA until full approval of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, many thousands more could have died and potentially hundreds of thousands more hospitalized. We urge you to vote against this bill.

Yours truly,



Written Opposition Testimony

Submitted by RxPlus Pharmacies

Please Oppose HB22- 1201

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 our 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 HB22-1201, undermines the future public health of our community. It provides misinformation 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.

HB22-1201, Standards for Immunization Requirements, establishes standards for exemptions to receiving an immunization, and outlines data reporting criteria for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). The bill states that Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) issued by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are not safe, and this is simply not true. COVID vaccines were established under such an order.

If HB1201 passes, it could delay essential treatment for emerging infectious diseases, such as COVID, that could be prevented by a rapidly made vaccines. This is not only ill-advised, it spreads misinformation about infectious diseases, undermines the safety and efficacy of emergency use vaccines, and distorts the publics' knowledge about the spread of infectious diseases in our communities.

RxPlus opposes HB22-1201 because it asserts information not scientifically based in fact.

Thank you for your time and opportunity to submit this testimony in opposition to HB22-1201.