

SUBMITTED FOR MAY 13, 2021 MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SUPPORT HB 4667

First, thank you so much for taking the time to support such an important issue to me. I am a Board-Certified Family Physician with 39 years of practice experience. I am not an anti-vaxxer and have overseen the administration of thousands of doses of vaccines in my practice.

I have enclosed with this statement documentation from Muskegon County which just this week approved a resolution to ban vaccine passports. This is not a novel issue; it is happening in other counties and townships in Michigan. I hope the information is helpful in your decision-making process.

I am sure all of us here can agree on three simple facts:

- 1) Masks reduce infections
- 2) Vaccines reduce deaths
- 3) Effective treatment is now available for hospitalized patients

Now let's make some simple comparisons:

INFLUENZA is a contagious viral disease spread by droplets and direct contact

Has a vaccine which has reduced deaths

Has medication that can be used for outpatient and hospitalized patients

Infection can occur in fully vaccinated persons despite the vaccine

WHOOPING COUGH (PERTUSSIS) is a contagious bacterial disease spread by droplets/direct contact

Has a vaccine which has reduced deaths

Has medication that can be used for outpatient and hospitalized patients

Infection can occur in fully vaccinated persons despite the vaccine

TUBERCULOSIS ("TB") is a contagious bacterial disease spread by droplets/direct contact

Has a "vaccine"- called BCG (not currently used in the United States)

Has medication that can be used for outpatient and hospitalized patients

Infection can occur in fully vaccinated persons despite the vaccine

COVID 19 (SARS COV-2) is a contagious viral disease spread by droplets/direct contact

Has several vaccines which have reduced deaths

Has medication that can be used for outpatient and hospitalized patients

Infection can occur in fully vaccinated persons despite the vaccine.

Interesting, isn't it? We do not need to show our vaccination records for the first three diseases on the list to play football, get married, take a vacation using a jet, or go shopping for example, yet many businesses, universities, travel companies, indeed-countries have begun to require these records in the form of a "Passport" to prove immunization for COVID 19.

This document does not protect any business, or university, or country, or person for that matter from transmitting the above diseases nor guarantee that a person is not currently ill with the disease. In the United States we are fortunate to have plenty of masks, vaccines,

medications, and common sense to manage these diseases. So, it makes epidemiological sense that COVID 19 needs no "Passport" or any confirmation for receiving a vaccine, or indeed that an individual is "immune" to COVID 19. A "Passport" is only giving a false signal of confidence.

I believe this is fear talking to all of us, out of proportion to the effect of the disease itself. The introduction of COVID 19 into the United States is devastating. However, we now have the means to prevent and treat the disease and all of its variants available right now. It is time to put COVID 19 in its place with other infectious diseases in our country.

Today, I am asking each of you to support HB 4667 for the State of Michigan to pass a law which eliminates the passport concept to combat the fear associated with it. Your support will show your constituents that you are confident that it is time to get back to life, to work, to normal without fear.

At the very beginning of the COVID 19 crisis, a wise person said to me: "Wow, I guess we will just have to live with this." That person was my 8-year-old grandson.

Submitted,

James A. Taylor DO
Family Physician
Grand Rapids, Michigan

THIS IS A LETTER TO ONE OF THE COMMISSIONERS ON MUSKEGON COUNTY BOARD IN SUPPORT OF A RESOLUTION TO BAN VACCINE PASSPORTS IN MUSKEGON COUNTY

Dear Ms. Hovey-Wright,

I am a supporter for passing a resolution to ban vaccine passports in Muskegon County.

I have heard that your commission has endured lots of lots just say input about this.

I agree with you that the issue of covid is about beating the virus. I'm 99.997% sure all of us support that goal.

The passport issue is different. Mandating a passport to have access to everyday behavior (shopping!) is a disaster for your local businesses, mainly because it will exclude all persons who do not have the document, and those who are unable or unwilling to receive the shot and therefore get a document. It doesn't discourage vaccines at all!

All it does is send a signal to your local businesses that Muskegon County is open minded and will not restrict shopping and everyday behavior just because the shopper doesn't have a piece of paper. It is such an important issue that the State of Michigan last week considered the very same issue in front of your committee tomorrow, with compelling testimony by national experts about how destructive a passport is for the state of Michigan, notwithstanding the rights of the individuals to not disclose their private medical information. I am sure you have been informed about the other issues.

Please support the businesses and residents of Muskegon County by supporting a resolution to ban vaccine passport or their equivalent and show the rest of the State of Michigan the way to handle this contentious issue.

Thank you so much for reading this. And, I really am so sorry your committee had to be in the middle of this issue. As it turns out, it may be a huge success after all!

Sincerely,
James Taylor

THIS IS A FOLLOW UP LETTER TO MS. HOVEY-WRIGHT BEFORE THE VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION

I am so happy you responded, Thank you!

I believe the group of high risk folks are protected by: the current vaccines already given, the ones that are getting them in the near future, and everyone who has had the infection and recovered-i.e., so called herd immunity.

I appreciate that Muskegon County is not considering vaccine passports-that is wonderful! Your comment about shopping without passports is very reassuring.

I was on the Clipper to Wisconsin last year. Do you think it is appropriate that all travelers on the boat to Wisconsin have a vaccine? If the masks work, can't they just wear a mask?

Having the Commission state that vaccine passports are banned in Muskegon County sends a reassuring signal to our residents that to venture out without a vaccine (by recommendation by their physician, or because they are excluded due to significant medical conditions, or by choice) is perfectly acceptable as there are other mitigating factors (masks, medication, prior exposure) that remove the need to have a passport.

I appreciate your comment about universities and cruise ships. But the argument is the same. In addition, the groups being encouraged to receive the vaccine (students and children) are extremely low risk for death and disability and should not be required to receive the vaccine to participate with their adult supervisors/parents in normal day to day activities like shopping, church, indoor and outdoor gatherings for example. In such a low risk group, grandma and grandpa are already vaccinated: what's the risk?

Commissioner, you have received so much input from various sources, much of which you may not be able to verify its credence/veracity/authenticity (can't find the word! aughh!). Most of my colleagues (I am a Family Physician with 39 years of practice) believe the passport is more of a continuation of State power that a safety issue as is my concern as well, I suppose, is yours. Even in that light, even if they are wrong, showing Muskegon County that for persons and businesses, you may go about your business and not have to have a piece of your medical history on your person (printed or electronic) available to exercise your rights as a free citizen in the USA.

Finally, and I apologize for the length of this letter, fear, indeed, is very much behind the Covid 19 crisis. Looking back when we were to "bend the curve," then reduce hospitalizations, then reduce the number of deaths, then reduce the number of cases, and now extending the masking requirements until ? Memorial Day ? Mothers Day ? July 4 ? Labor Day ? School opening... is there a pattern here? I think so, and that pattern is fear of the unknown at first, and everything following that has been stoking fear to change behaviors.

Wouldn't it be nice if you and your colleagues on the Commission free Muskegon County residents from the requirement for passports with a simple Resolution? Please lead the way for other counties in Michigan to reduce fear and beat this virus into submission.

Thank you so much for your generous time. I am unable to phone in today so i thought I would at least let you know what I think and how much I care.

Sincerely,
James Taylor



Muskegon County Board of Commissioners

Muskegon County Resolution Regarding Vaccine Passports

within the Boundaries of Muskegon County

Resolution #2021-01

WHEREAS, medical records and information are private and fall under HIPAA protections; and

WHEREAS, individual COVID-19 vaccination records are private health information which should not be shared by mandate; and

WHEREAS, so-called COVID-19 vaccine passports reduce individual freedom and will harm patient privacy; and

WHEREAS, Muskegon County Department of Public Health seeks to ensure that every resident in Muskegon County who desires a COVID-19 vaccine can obtain one, but such vaccines are not mandated; and

WHEREAS, no COVID-19 vaccine is required by law; and

WHEREAS, requiring COVID-19 vaccine passports for taking part in everyday life such as, but not limited to, attending a sporting event, patronizing a restaurant, or going to a movie theater would create two classes of citizens based on vaccination; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan allows for medical, religious, and philosophical exemptions from vaccines; and

WHEREAS, vaccine passports are thus highly discriminatory; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to protect the fundamental rights and privacies of the residents of Muskegon County and the free flow of commerce.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this Resolution be sent to Governor Whitmer, Senator Jon Bumstead, Representative Terry Sabo, Representative Greg VanWoerkom, the Michigan Senate, the Michigan House of Representatives, Michigan Association of Counties and to the Clerk of each County in the State of Michigan.

The Muskegon County Board of Commissioners, at its _____, 2021, meeting recommended approval by Commissioner _____, support by Commissioner _____, the aforementioned resolution.

I, Nancy A. Waters, Clerk of the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners and Clerk of the County of Muskegon, do hereby certify that the above Resolution was duly adopted by said Board on _____, 2021.

Nancy A. Waters, Clerk Date County of Muskegon

WHEREAS, all currently available COVID-19 is authorized for emergency use, and therefore must remain voluntary under the Nuremberg Trial Codes; and

WHEREAS, Muskegon County Department of Public Health and MDHHS acknowledges there are many instances where an individual, along with their doctor, decide that being vaccinated may be unsafe; and

WHEREAS, vaccine passports do not take into consideration the large number of citizens who have contracted and recovered from COVID-19 and are therefore naturally immune; and WHEREAS, the CDC, MDHHS, and the Muskegon County Department of Public Health acknowledge that it is possible for vaccinated individuals to contract and spread COVID-19; and WHEREAS, because vaccinated individuals could be able to contract and spread COVID-19, a space where only vaccinated individuals are present holds the same risk as a space where individuals are both vaccinated and unvaccinated; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Muskegon County does not support, endorse or enforce mandatory vaccines or vaccine passports in government buildings, public spaces, businesses or places of employment.

