

MALCOLM KENYATTA, MEMBER  
181ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

105B EAST WING  
P.O. BOX 202181  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2181  
(717) 787-9471  
FAX: (717) 787-7297

1501 NORTH BROAD STREET, SUITE 17  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19122  
(215) 978-0311  
FAX: (215) 978-0316

WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/KENYATTA



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January 29, 2021

Alison Beam  
Acting Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Health  
Health and Welfare Building  
8th Floor West  
625 Forster Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Acting Secretary Beam:

I write to request that the Pennsylvania Department of Health issue a guideline or rule prohibiting the use of credit monitoring systems to verify patient identity during the registration and administration of a COVID-19 vaccine.

A report from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) found that 26 million adults in the United States are “credit invisible” while another 19 million are “unscorable.” This means that nearly one in five American adults either have no credit record or lack a sufficient enough credit history to receive a score. Moreover, the study found significantly higher rates of credit invisibility among low-income populations and people of color.

Using credit history to verify patient identity—something that vaccine sites in other states are already doing—could bar millions from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. Our most vulnerable populations will be those to suffer the worst. This is both unnecessary and unconscionable.

I am calling on you, as the leader of our state’s health department, to prevent this from happening in Pennsylvania. I ask that the Department of Health prohibit vaccine sites from using credit monitoring systems to verify patient identity. As public officials, we must do our part to ensure everyone has access to this life-saving vaccine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Malcolm Kenyatta".

Malcolm Kenyatta  
State Representative  
181<sup>st</sup> Legislative District

MK/js