

Assembly approves ban on COVID-19 vaccine passports

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The Assembly today passed a bill banning businesses and government entities from requiring vaccination passports to prove people have been inoculated against COVID-19.

Rep. Mark Spreitzer, D-Beloit, said the bill would interfere with business' operations and could be harmful to public health. Spreitzer added the government should not tell businesses when it's appropriate to require customers to be vaccinated.

But Rep. Tyler August, R-Lake Geneva, countered people shouldn't be forced to disclose their vaccination status to go about their daily lives. He said the bill was needed with lawsuits over the issue filed in other states.

"People still have the right to keep their private health records private," August said. "That should be a fundamental right in this country."

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AB299 would prohibit businesses and government entities from requiring anyone to provide proof they have been vaccinated for COVID-19 in order to receive services, access buildings or participate in business functions.