

HB0087 Public Health- Immunizations- Minor Consent (Access to Vaccines Act)

Deirdre Elvis-Peterson

Oppose

I am writing you in opposition of your proposed cross- filed bill HB0087.

I am deeply disturbed by the government's attempt to usurp parental rights and place them in the hands of a person my child would see for 30 minutes out of a year. That's right, children see the doctor more than likely only for their school physical other than that they may go in one other time that year, at least that's how healthy children's schedules should look.

The government wants to entrust a person who sees my child for 30 minutes out of a year with a decision about the child I am raising.

Let's do some math

There are 365 days in a year.
That makes 8760 hours in a year.
As Parents we raise, nurture and care for our children all those hours.

Our children, at our discretion, go to their doctors as needed.
For the most part, a healthy child need only see their doctor for their school physical, and perhaps again for a sports or summer camp physical.

However, for this example I'll be generous and say a healthy child, on average, sees their physician for a total of 2 hours out of the year. So, I am generously saying the visits are about 20 mins long and that allows for 6 contacts per year.

So, for my generous example a physician would see a child for:
 $2/8760$ hours per year which is 0.00023 hours each year...
which works out to be 0.0037 hours in their 16-year lifetime.

Now the state of Maryland, in a demonstration of EXTREME government overreach and encroachment on the family unit, wants to give the person who sees my child for 0.0037 hours in their 16-year lifetime the exclusive right to:

- A. Decide on the maturity of my child
- B. Decide if my child is mature enough to make major medical decisions
- C. Exclude my parental experience, knowledge and best interest of my child

There is NO ONE on this planet that has my child's best interest at heart above that of me and my husband.

The government **certainly** does not and a doctor, who is PAID to even see my child, **absolutely** does not. The doctor, parent(s)/child relationship is a business relationship.
Money is exchanged for a service for which the physician has been hired to perform.
That service is usually in the form of an examination followed by recommendations.

rec·om·men·da·tion
/ˌrɛkəmənˈdāʃ(ə)n/

noun

noun: **recommendation**; plural noun: **recommendations**

a suggestion or proposal as to the best course of action, especially one put forward by an authoritative body.

As defined, recommendations are not absolutes.

It is beyond a lot of gall for a state to think it can impose these types of restrictions on parents and bombard families in this manner with overreaching legislation.

Was this your goal when you took an oath to SERVE the good families of the State of Maryland? Was that a part of your campaign? Was the usurping of parental rights part of your agenda?

I pray these were not your intentions.

So, in summary, I do not support SB0135/HB0087:

- The doctor, parent(s)/child relationship is a business relationship.
- Physicians are hired by parents to consult in health matters.
- The advice of the physician is always in the form of a recommendation.
- The parent then decides on the best course of action as they are raising, caring for and nurturing the child AND paying the bill!
- The state's attempt to interject more into this business relationship is an encroachment on citizen rights to life liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
- The parent(s) also know the child best and are arguably the sole adults who have the child's best interest at heart.

Sincerely,

Deirdre Elvis-Peterson
District 44B