

HB87: Public Health - Immunizations - Minor Consent (Access to Vaccines Act)

Azara Turaki

Oppose

I would like to oppose SB0135/ HB0087: Minor Consent Bill. My concerns are due to the lack of maturity of children and removal of parental rights.

As much as I believe vaccines are a public health for us all, I do not think that children should be allowed to make the decision on timing of vaccines. As a parent I am very involved in my children's health, and I monitor and time when is the best time for any procedure. I don't think a 16-year-old has the ability to remember prior shots. In addition, children and even teens do not have the abilities to understand that an egg allergy is a contra-indication for the flu shot.

Children are not allowed to get a tattoo, vote, get married and a myriad of other items. These rules are in place because children do NOT have the maturity to make that decision without their parents.

My larger opposition to this bill is the removal of the parents' right to be involved in their children's health and make these decisions. I think this really removing the constitutional rights we have as parents and going against federal protections. I truly see this as violation of my rights. I gave birth to this child and it is not the right of a health care practitioner to make decisions for my family.

I am COMPLETELY opposed to this.

As much as the intention is to support public health, this cannot be done at the expense of taking away parental rights.

Sincerely,
Azara Turaki
Silver Spring MD