

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

Jennifer Gusilatar

Oppose

My name is Jennifer Gusilatar and I am a mom of three. We live in Finksburg, Maryland. I am writing you today as a concerned parent advocating for parental rights.

I urge you to oppose this bill HB0087 Public Health – Immunizations - Minor Consent (Access to Vaccines Act). This is a bill we are seeing in states across the nation. Maryland's own HB66 set the age at 14. Other states have tried 12. Some states have had no minimum age at all. This is the chipping away of parental rights and slippery slope of minimum age requirements.

My second concern is for children with food allergies. Two of my children have severe allergies to eggs and cannot receive a flu shot. They know to ask about their egg allergy for anything they eat...will they ask if the vaccine contains a food allergen?

A third concern I have is that as a society, we have agreed that children need parental support until the age of 18. At 16 they cannot vote, buy alcohol, join the military or buy cigarettes. I find it strange that we would give them authority over their medical decisions, which can greatly impact their health and the rest of their lives. Minor children are extremely unlikely to know and be able to express their detailed medical history, family medical history, contradictions, etc.

Thank you for your time,

Jennifer Gusilatar

District 5