

I am **vehemently opposed to HB0087/SB0135**. Similar bills across the country are attempting to chip away at parental rights. A 16 year old is a child -- cannot vote, cannot buy alcohol or cigarettes, cannot serve in the military -- and should not be able to consent to medical procedures without a parent. Do you trust minors to know that vaccines can and do contain food allergens? How many minors with egg allergies will be convinced to consent to a flu shot not knowing they could have a life threatening reaction? How many minors with neurodevelopmental disorders (which can fly under the radar in a 30 minute conversation) will consent to a medical procedure without the ability to understand the complicated decision they are making? By 16, the vast majority of children are already fully vaccinated. This is a clear attempt to push the HPV vaccine for profit. As a country we have agreed that children do not become adults, meaning they need parental support, until 18. This bill has been very poorly received by Maryland citizens before and it is just as unpopular now. I am deeply disappointed that our legislature would attempt to take away parental rights and put our children at such risk.

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