

My initial reaction to this bill was, why do we need a teen vaccination bill at all? If you go to the government's HealthyPeople2020 website, teen vaccination uptake goals for Tdap and Meningococcal vaccines already exceed 90% in Maryland, with a goal of 80%. There is no justification for this bill at all since Maryland goals are already being met.¹

Second, I find this bill to be an attack on my rights as a parent. SB135 removes parental control over my minor child's health decisions. Additionally, a 16-yr-old should not be burdened with making complicated medical decisions which might be life-altering or deadly. I asked my soon-to-be 16-yr-old son, "Do you know your medical history?" I got "No," then "asthma?" His medical history involves an autoimmune disorder and is far more complicated than he was capable of understanding or explaining, and this just illustrates a teen's lack of knowledge and therefore sound decision-making ability when it comes to vaccinations and their potential risks.

Most young teens lack the wisdom and maturity to evaluate the merit of vaccine risks vs benefits. For instance, when I evaluated the risk vs benefit of the HPV vaccine for my teens, it required some research. According to the FDA (meeting minutes from May 2006), if an individual is infected with certain strains of HPV at the time of Gardasil vaccination, the individuals' risk of developing cervical cancer ("CIN2 or CIN3 lesions or worse") may increase by approximately 44.6%.² Additionally, the incidence of anal and penile cancer are miniscule, less than 1.9 per 100,000.³ This looked to me like all risk vs no benefit – and the vaccine adverse events include autoimmune disorders, of which my child already has a history. The point is, my teen would not have gone through this risk vs benefit analysis, so how could he possibly give true informed consent?

Furthermore, we're talking about a liability-free medical procedure involving a liability-free medical product.⁴ Would you buy a liability-free carseat and put your child or your grandchild in it? The reality is that vaccine injuries do occur.⁵ So if my kid dies or suffers damage from a vaccine we the parents never even consented to, we alone bear the burden of care and financial costs if an injury were to happen. Please withdraw HB87. Thank you.

See supporting links below

1 <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/data-search/Search-the-Data#topic-area=3527;age=534;>
(Hit "National Data" tab, and select "Maryland" to see state-specific data)

2 <https://www.esculape.com/gynecologie/imagegyneco/gardasil-table%2017.gif>

3 <https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/anus.html>, <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/penile-cancer/about/key-statistics.html>

4 <https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/article/national-childhood-vaccine-injury-act-and-supreme-courts-interpretation/2012-01>

5 Over \$4 billion has been paid out by NVICA Program since its inception:
<https://www.hrsa.gov/vaccine-compensation/data/index.html>