

HB1135: Health Occupations- Pharmacists- Vaccination Orders
Unfavorable
Alliance for Science Based Policy
Silver Spring, MD

Dear Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison and Committee Members,

It is our understanding from conversations with the office of the House sponsor of this bill that HB1135 will allow pharmacists to order flu mist and future products to be delivered to homes for a “caregiver” to administer to whomever is in the home.

This state debated pharmacists vaccinating children for over a decade. That bill, which was introduced in 2012, could never pass until the pandemic made it seem necessary. Now the state is just going to have pharmacists ordering live viral nasal sprays to be delivered and who knows who will be administering it to children???

Administering a vaccination is not like handing out a piece of candy, and these days even candy will harm some children with peanut or dairy allergies or reactions to artificial food dye. **Vaccination is a medical procedure that is supposed to follow a thorough assessment (preferably by a physician), informed consent of benefits AND risks, and a provider that a patient can contact if they have a health issue after the administration of the vaccine.**

Special Concerns: According to the attached article from CHOP (Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia):

- 1. Children receiving vaccinations through the VFC program MUST BE vaccinated in person with an actual provider (which is the safest for the child). At home flu mist cannot be used with the VFC program.*
- 2. This is not a time saver for any busy “caregiver”. According to the article, caregivers must watch a video or read the written materials to understand precautions, how to administer, and finally how to remove the medical waste of a live virus product when they are done. Current instructions ARE ONLY PROVIDED IN ENGLISH!*
- 3. Pharmacists will report to Immunet re: the address that the Flu Mist is sent to. How do we know who in the home actually took the product?*

The following is testimony from my friend and Maryland mother, Tina Young, whose daughter, Jasmine, developed Guillain-Barre syndrome after a routine flu shot that was given by a nurse in the hospital. Jasmine suffered devastating disability with Guillain-Barre and it eventually killed her. **Flu vaccination is a medical procedure that has both**

benefits and RISKS. Please do not trivialize the importance of assessment and informed consent by passing this bill.

“My name is Tina Young, I am the mother of the late Jasmine Imani Williams -Young. I am speaking on the behalf of her son, my 2 daughters and all of the beautiful black people in my family and community. On November 27 2014, Jasmine gifted our family with a beautiful healthy baby boy, she named him Benjamin, she chose that name from the Bible as Benjamin is 1 of 12 tribes. Soon after his delivery, she was offered the flu vaccine and told that if she was to fall ill from the flu, her son would surely die. As a mother who wants to protect her child, and fear she took the shot. This was something that she gave no 2nd thought to, she was protecting herself from a potential deadly virus and protecting her son. The nurse administered the vaccine without providing the proper information about the vaccine, she failed to mention that the shot can cause GUILLIAN BARRE SYNDROME or death. My daughter became totally disabled 6 weeks later, no one informed her of the risk. Jasmine never had the chance to be a mom to her only child, she died July 26 2019 at the age of 26. No one in my immediate family or community had ever heard or been advised of the possibilities of death behind a vaccine. As a parent and consumer, it should be mandated to explain all possibilities of vaccines and allow people to make the best decision for themselves with a full disclosure. My family mourns our loss that could have been prevented.”

For these reasons we ask the committee for an Unfavorable report.