

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

Neil Butler

**Oppose**

Honorable Members of the Committee,

As a father and a former Maryland Delegate Chief of Staff, I am familiar with our legislature and respect it's members and the work they do for Maryland's children. That being said, HB 87/ SB 135 are NOT in the best interest of our children, and I strongly oppose these bills.

I do not want my sons to make the decision for vaccines without my guidance and consent. These are decisions we make as a family and with our trusted medical providers. There are contraindications and family history to be considered with each vaccination, and to remove parental input from this decision is inexcusably dangerous. If they cannot buy cigarettes or alcohol until age 21, how can they consent to being injected with a vaccine? We have clearly, in the state of Maryland just last year, decided that anyone under the age of 21 is not able to assess risk appropriately, and therefore they need parental guidance "...when they are underage and their brains are still developing," as Maryland Department of Health Secretary Robert R. Neall said, referring to raising the age for tobacco.

I respectfully ask that you vote no on these bills to protect Maryland's children.

Neil Butler

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