

HB87: Public Health - Immunizations - Minor Consent (Access to Vaccines Act)

Alicia Cacace

Oppose

I am a registered Democrat and vote in every election. I am an educator, a parent, and an active participant in my community. I am writing because maintaining parental rights through the age of 18 is a topic that will affect all Marylanders, and it is an issue very close to my heart.

Stripping parental rights at the age of 16 is terrifying for me as a parent. My son is anaphylactic to egg, nuts, dairy, and certain seeds. He has the monumental life task of understanding how to carry his epi pen, administer it appropriately, and find medical help in the case of accidental ingestion.

My son needs to receive his vaccinations in a doctor's office under medical supervision due to his allergies. *Can you guarantee that if this bill is passed, when he is 16, that he will be able to advocate for himself under pressure from, say, a school nurse or mobile vaccination unit?* In my family's case, this is a matter of life and death for our child. No one can advocate for my son's health the way that my husband and I can. There is no reason to strip me and my husband of that right during our child's last two years as a minor. Those two years are crucial for his development and maturity.

Thank you for hearing my concerns, and I hope legislation that limits parents' rights will be rejected.

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