

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

Marina Gan

Oppose

Dear Delegates,

My name is Marina Gan and I live in Baltimore County. I write to you today to ask you to please oppose HB0087. It is imperative that parental rights be upheld and parents be involved in the healthcare decisions of their minor children. Minors have not yet fully developed the capacity to evaluate and understand the long-term implications of their decisions, and they are not able to fully understand a potentially complicated family medical history in order to accurately weigh considerations and report accurate and relevant health history to the physician administering the vaccine.

Maryland has one of the highest vaccination rates in the country, and by age 16 children have already received all of their immunizations, with exception of the HPV and annual flu vaccines.

I was personally injured when I elected to receive the HPV vaccine in my early 20's, and after months of ongoing illness was ultimately diagnosed with a rare autoimmune condition, having no family history of autoimmune disease and no prior adverse reactions to any childhood vaccines I received. I have grave concerns about the safety of this particular vaccine and fear a bill that would allow my child to receive this without my consent nor the ability to fully reason and be fully accountable for consequences.

Again, I urge you, please uphold parental rights and oppose HB0087. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this matter.

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