

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

Tracy Barr

Oppose

Dear Delegates,

I am shocked and saddened to hear of your recent filing of the HB0087 Minor Consent Bill and would like you to know that I adamantly oppose this bill and hope you will reconsider pulling this bill as Virginia recently pulled a similar bill.

Children are not considered to be legal adults until the age of 18 in our American society. Children that are 16 do not have a driver's license, they cannot buy cigarettes, they cannot vote, they cannot join the military, they cannot buy and consume alcohol legally, but yet this bill implies they can make medical decisions on their own and without a parent's consent. I do not feel this bill is appropriate and/or necessary.

I am a mother of two children and I find this bill to be an egregious affront to my parental rights. One of my children has a myriad of health issues that are quite complex and intricate, including brain inflammation, and autoimmune disorders. How is one going to ascertain this and assess the risk of possibly adversely affecting his health within a 15-20 minute assessment. Furthermore, if a vaccine is given and I am not made aware of this and he would happen to have a serious and/or life threatening reaction, how would I know what happened to my child? I wouldn't have a clue. Is this fair to me as a parent? Who will be held liable for any negative consequences of vaccination without my consent? What happens if a child gets a duplication of a vaccine they already had because they are at some clinic where there is no vaccination record on file. Lastly, who will pay for this vaccination, if the 16 year old isn't with their parent when vaccinated? Will the parent's insurance be billed without consent and authorization?

Would you really want this bill for your own children and family? Do you really want to prematurely take away a parent's rights? These types of medical discussions and decisions should be made with the parent, the doctor and the child up until the age of 18.

I do not believe this bill is in the best interests of the families here in Maryland and I hope that you will pull this bill immediately.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Tracy B Barr