

Testimony to Oppose HB87
Christine Marr

I'm here today to testify in opposition to HB87 which proposes that minor children aged 16 and up be granted the power to consent to vaccination without parental knowledge or consent; and that any adult caregiver can consent to a minor child receiving a vaccination per their understanding of the parent's undocumented verbal consent. I urge you to withdraw this bill from consideration for the following reasons:

- This bill is unconstitutional as it is a serious violation of parental rights.
 - This bill proposes driving a governmental wedge between parents and their children. I urge you to keep the government out of our family decisions. Parents are the ultimate stewards of their children's healthcare and
 - This bill leaves significant risk of assumption and misunderstanding by childcare providers without any way to verify undocumented verbal parental consent.
 - Divorcing co-parents legally establish joint or sole custody to determine who has the legal rights to make major life decisions for their children, including medical decisions. Permitting temporary child care providers the ability to pass on [their understanding of] verbal parental consent to these medical treatments essentially raises them to the level of joint custody in some ways, being able to make a major health decision for a child that is not theirs.
 - The bill does not hold medical providers liable for any injury caused by vaccination without parental knowledge unless gross negligence. Not having full medical knowledge confounds the ability to show gross negligence as a potential injury could just be due to ignorance rather than negligence. Meanwhile parents are always 100% financially and functionally responsible for any possible injury to invasive medical procedures such as vaccination.
 - This bill would set a dangerous precedent and could open the flood gates to bills minor children to consent to other invasive medical procedures such as medical marijuana, sex hormones, cosmetic or elective surgeries, psychotropic medication shown to increase risk of suicide and violent behavior, and the like.

- I am the mother of an 8-year old son with attention and focus issues. In investigating which path to take my husband and I sought a specialist who ordered metabolic testing to look for underlying medical causes, and determine if stimulant medication was indicated for our son as many child psychiatrists prescribe and find to helps some children. The testing found our son has high copper with difficulty eliminating copper from his body compared to others. The specialist doctor that we paid out of pocket informed us that the high copper means the typical medical recommendation of stimulant medication would not

work and would, in fact make our son's issues worse. We have followed his medical recommendations to control our son's copper levels and pursued additional treatment to manage his attention and focus issues which is going well. A bill like HB87 opens the flood gates to other bills for one size fits all medical treatments and violates parental rights to seek medical guidance and make decisions for their children in an informed, thorough manner such as we found was beneficial for our son.

- HB87 is a violation of informed medical consent provided in the Nuremberg Code. Parents, not teens or temporary childcare providers have a full knowledge of a child's medical and family medical history.
 - In 1979 the Supreme Court deemed that youth are unable to make good judgements including for medical decisions.
 - Youth could reactively consent to vaccination outside of their pediatrician or primary care doctor without parent's knowledge and not include that vaccination in their primary medical record. An incomplete medical record poses more risk and confounds true informed consent.

Thank you for representing Maryland families. Again, I urge you to withdraw these bills and in doing so to protect Marylanders' parental rights and our rights to informed medical consent.

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Dear Delegates:

I'm am writing to ask you to oppose [HB83](#) - Public Health - Immunizations - Minor Consent (Access to Vaccines Act)--Minor children aged 16 and up be granted the power to consent to vaccination without parental knowledge or consent.

To see bills (like HB87 and SB135 and cross-filed companion bills with identical language) introduced is truly heartbreaking for parents and families all over Maryland. These types of bills propose that state government should usurp parental authority and supersede individual parental rights. This is fundamentally unconstitutional and grossly invasive. The well-being of the family is so important and fundamental to our community and society. At the core of family well-being are the parent's rights to protect their children/family from manipulation and outside interests. If this bill is passed, it opens a flood gate that cannot easily be closed. New bills will be introduced to lower the age to 12yrs old, to 5 yrs old, until there are no parental rights at all—leaving our kids and family defenseless. This in fact is already happening in many states around the country. **Please do not let this happen and stand up for families throughout MD and oppose HB83.**

This statement really encompasses the deep challenge to family health and values:

“From coast to coast, parents are in the throes of standing in their parental authority in the face of forced vaccination. Bills threatening to degrade parental autonomy with crafty language slipped in to lower the age of consent for vaccine decisions are of utmost concern for the 2020 state legislative sessions. **Some state lawmakers are acknowledging they were surprised to find language in proposed legislation that would compromise their own parental rights.** The time to stand for our civil and religious liberties, particularly parental rights, is now. Laws are being drafted with the intention of removing parents from vaccine decision-making and the discussion surrounding it. The only way to counter these efforts is to be a part of the solution. Stand firm in your natural rights as a parent. Recognize that when it comes to your family's health, the state's role is to make healthcare accessible, not to force pharmaceutical products on your child (or any other unwitting population). Most of all, get involved—sooner rather than later. Any time liberties are taken away it requires Herculean efforts to restore them. So it's best to protect your rights while you still have them. “ - Stand for Health Freedom (SHF)

Lowering the age of consent is very troubling but it's a slippery slope situation around the country where “legislative analysts predict that several states will file bills in 2020 to reduce the “age of consent” to allow children to get vaccinated without parental consent. Currently, most states remain at 18 for the age of consent, but nearly 20 states—Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington and West Virginia—have made allowances for “mature minors” as young as age 12.” Where does it end? Will the age of minor consent be slow lowered eventually in Maryland to 12, 6, 5, newborn...? Will the laws be that eventually where no ability of parents to protect their children at all?

Furthermore, parents need to be involved in medical decision making on behalf of their child because they alone bear the burden of care and financial costs if the child experiences negative side effects to the medical intervention. The pharmaceutical companies are completely free of liability for injuries and deaths due to childhood vaccination. They cannot be sued even if one can prove that the vaccine or biologic was defective. **Congress passed the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act (NCVIA) of 1986 (42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to 300aa-34) which give makers of vaccines TOTAL IMMUNITY from direct lawsuits for any injury or death from the vaccines, thus they do not have any incentives to make the product as safe as can be. Then in 2011, the Supreme Court confirmed that drug companies that produce vaccines have total immunity because of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act (NCVIA) of 1986.** (<https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/10pdf/09-152.pdf>).

Thus, if HB83 passes and comes into law, this will be one step closer to families of Maryland losing absolute right and NO course to protect ourselves or our kids from any injury/death from any vaccination or any combinations of vaccinations and any ingredient they want to give us NOW and IN THE FUTURE in the course of our whole life and all our future generations. We can't sue the pharmaceutical companies to stop for injury or death; thus, we can't force them change their product to make ingredients now or future ingredients are safe--Unless we change the FEDERAL LAW and overturn National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act (NCVIA) of 1986. Please do not take away our Maryland state right to protect our kids and family!

Moreover, like any medical product or procedure, vaccines have risks. Unlike any other medical product or procedure, they are given without regard to individual differences in body type, weight, and pre-existing medical condition/history. Every individual have different health history and can react to a medical product/procedure differently. For example, so people are fine taking penicillin. However, some people might have important adverse reaction resulting in nausea, vomiting, pruritus, urticaria, wheezing, laryngeal oedema and ultimately, cardiovascular collapse and death. Thus, the adverse effect with vaccines can affect each person differently. Thus, it is a parental responsibility to bring such awareness to bear in medical decision making, not the child's responsibility. In addition, if a vaccine is given without parental consent and knowledge and there is a post vaccination adverse event, the family will not know to report the event to public authorities thereby undermining safety surveillance. One must have the wisdom and maturity to be able to evaluate the merit of each vaccine based on its own true risk vs benefit profile. This is a skill even some adults lack let alone minors. It is widely acknowledged that all pharmaceuticals and biologics carry risk and it behooves the consumer to thoroughly investigate the risks in relation to one's own susceptibility. This is a degree of self-awareness and investigative skill not found in minors including teens who lack the life experience for adequate decision making regarding ingested, injected or inhaled pharmaceuticals.

If bills like HB83 becomes law and does succeed in removing parental protection (leaving parents' powerless to protect their kids), who stands to win? It is the producers of this medical treatment/vaccines who profits money and power. Who loses? The family, the community, Maryland, the country... In , [The Papers of Thomas Jefferson: Retirement Series, Volume 10: 1 May 1816 to 18 January 1817](#), Thomas Jefferson wrote: "I hope that we shall crush in its birth the aristocracy of our monied corporations which dare already to challenge our government to a trial of strength, and bid defiance to the laws of our country." It seems that the makers of the vaccines are the winners of taking parental right away. In fact, history teaches us that sometimes government, including agencies and laws can be used as instruments to harm. Please remember in his letter from Birmingham Jail, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote:

We can never forget that everything Hitler did in Germany was "legal" and everything the Hungarian freedom fighters did in Hungary was "illegal." It was "illegal" to aid and comfort a Jew in Hitler's Germany. But I am sure that if I had lived in Germany during that time, I would have aided and comforted my Jewish brothers even though it was illegal. If I lived in a Communist country today where certain principles dear to the Christian faith are suppressed, I believe I would openly advocate disobeying these anti-religious laws. (https://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/documents/Letter_Birmingham_Jail.pdf)

I believe what Dr. King is saying is we as a nation, as citizens of U.S, families in the state of Maryland and as human beings must consider a situation carefully to see what is really happening and to fight to obtain and keep our liberties and rights and not to surrender them easily.

Please do not take the parents' ability to protect their family, which will have horrible impact not only on our generations but countless generations to come. Please heed the warning of Thomas Paine when he wrote in [Dissertation on First Principles of Government, 1791](#): "*He that would make his own liberty secure, must guard even his enemy from oppression; for if he violates this duty, he establishes a precedent that will reach to himself.*" Furthermore, President Abraham Lincoln warns: "*Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves; and under the rule of a just God, cannot long retain it.*"

Taking away a parent's ability to protect his family will have lasting effects on liberty throughout our state and country. It is my deepest, heart-felt plea to you and all the members of our great MD assembly to please protect our families and to please, please oppose [HB87](#) and any future bill that will attempt to destroy our families and parental rights to protect their kids and families in Maryland. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Jennings
14921 Belle Ami Drive, Laurel, MD 20707

Dear Committee Members,

I am terrified about the lack of concern for children's health in these bills. It seems their health is on sale to the highest bidder! There is no regard for personal situations or individual differences.

Take for example administering of a simple medication to a student in school. There is a very detailed form that must be signed by a parent and the **child's**

pediatrician! <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pQU6ZeJYRplVC264gg8VTPrwUtmKAJFkyKc-A2dBciE/edit>

Or consider children with food allergies. CDC recommends significant preparation for children with allergies, including staff training, coordination and collaboration between teachers, parents, and doctors, and **individualized multi-step plans** for managing child allergy.

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/foodallergies/index.htm>

Similarly, vaccines could cause severe reactions that must be handled by highly trained doctors who recognize symptoms and are familiar with treatments. The treatments of vaccine reactions may involve powerful drugs: <https://immunize.org/catg.d/p3082a.pdf> Shouldn't parents be aware of such treatments? Shouldn't child's regular doctor be involved?

Vaccines themselves contain several ingredients that can trigger allergic reactions. For that reason it is recommended that a vaccinated individual is monitored for at least 15 minutes under supervision of medical staff after injection, so that emergency medical care could be administered if necessary:

<https://ivaccinate.org/uFAQs/ingredients-vaccines-cause-allergic-reactions/>

How could schools provide such accommodations? How do the schools find appropriate number of highly trained medical personnel to conduct such programs?

Schools are not the place to provide medical advice, treatments, or even education. Furthermore, WHO recently discussed that vaccine safety has not been adequately studied, and monitoring systems are insufficient: <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2019/12/02/default-calendar/global-vaccine-safety-summit>

Even more importantly, **medical staff lacks training** on recognizing adverse vaccine reactions and on the vaccine science in general, according to top scientists at WHO. Is it under such conditions you want to allow broad administration of these risky procedures?

Please protect children's privacy and medical freedom and maintain parental rights in this critical issue.

Sincerely,
Mark Meyerovich
Gaithersburg, MD