SB 168- ImmuNet and Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations

Megan Montgomery

Written Testimony

Support with Amendments

Good Afternoon Members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee,

My name is Megan Montgomery, and I am a long-term resident of the state of Maryland. I submit this written testimony to support Senator Pinsky's bill with the following amendments:

1.) There should be a designated citizen representative on the Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations.
2.) Term limits should remain in place for the positions highlighted in the legislation.
3.) Health care providers should continue to be required to maintain accurate vaccination records outside of ImmuNet.
4.) Reinstate the right of Maryland residents to fully 'opt-out' of ImmuNet

The goal of the bill- to protect our most vulnerable residents from overvaccination- is a good one. But ImmuNet is not perfect, even now I know multiple people who were vaccinated in Maryland and whose vaccinations were never entered into ImmuNet even though they should have been. Requiring health care practices and clinics to continue to maintain proper vaccination records outside of ImmuNet is the most prudent way to ensure that children and the elderly who are not always able to keep their own track of which vaccinations they have received do not inadvertently end up getting double vaccinated when ImmuNet has not been properly updated.

I also urge the committee to amend this bill to reinstate the right of citizens of the state of Maryland to fully 'opt-out' of ImmuNet tracking. As stated above, ImmuNet is a tool, but it's not always accurate and citizens have the right to have their health care information properly stored at their physician's office. In this multi-state area in which we live, Marylanders are often choosing to seek their health care elsewhere to ensure more restricted access to their HIPPA protected health care information.

Thank you for working so hard for the citizens of the great state of Maryland, and thank you for your time today.