

**HB1161- Public Health- Human Papillomavirus Vaccine- Information and Informed Consent-
Christina's Law**
FAVORABLE
Love Maryland PAC

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice-Chair Cullison, and Distinguished Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

The Love Maryland PAC requests a Favorable report on HB1161 as we support any initiative to improve the informed consent process surrounding vaccinations.

Please read the attached flyer with the story of Jasmine, a young Maryland resident who passed away at age 25, after dealing with Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) that she acquired from a routine flu shot. Jasmine's mother reports that Jasmine was never told that Guillain-Barre Syndrome could happen after a flu shot, even though it is a known adverse reaction that is compensated by the Federal Government's Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.

Because Jasmine had never been warned of this possibility, she ignored symptoms of GBS for several days. When Jasmine was taken to a Maryland hospital, she was placed for a week on a psychiatric unit and diagnosed with conversion disorder, a psychological diagnosis, when in fact she truly becoming paralyzed with full blown Guillain-Barre Syndrome. When Jasmine was transported to Johns Hopkins one of the first things that they asked was whether she had been recently vaccinated. Jasmine and her mother had never considered that this could be a vaccine injury.

This lack of information cost Jasmine timely treatment, compensation, and ultimately her life. The Federal government gives no question compensation to patients who develop GBS up to 42 days after the administration of a flu shot. The week on a psych floor put her past the 42-day limit for diagnosis and she was never able to receive any compensation for her injury or death. Mistakes were made all along the way, that could have been avoided if Jasmine had been told that GBS was a possibility and if the signs and symptoms and been explained to her. She could be alive today to raise her son.

More and more we hear from families that do not receive the Vaccine Information Sheet when their children are vaccinated, and that they are told they are completely safe, when in fact injuries can and do occur.

In light of the current inadequacies regarding informed consent around the HPV vaccine and all vaccines, we support HB1161 and ask the committee for a Favorable report.

