

BILL # HB 1161 Amy Rehkemper FAV

Date of Hearing: Tuesday, 3/14/2023

Amy Harris Rehkemper, CPO
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TESTIMONY ON HB #1161 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Public Health- Human Papillomavirus Vaccine- Information and Informed Consent

TO: Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health & Government Operations Committee

My name is Amy Rehkemper. I am a resident of district 43B in Towson, Maryland. I am submitting this testimony in SUPPORT of HB #1161.

I am a mother of two young teenagers and have owned a business in Maryland for 23 years. I care about this bill because I believe in the concept of informed consent. After reading through the bill with my husband, we paused to wonder... "Who could be against a bill that simply aims to supply parents with accurate information?" How else can parents make an informed medical decision about their children without a true and accurate picture of both the risks and the benefits?

I have seen countless advertisements on television that encourage families to get the HPV shot, so the public is already getting a run-down of this vaccine's benefits, but parents deserve a balanced account and that means we need to share potential risks too. Concealing this information, or only cherry-picking side effects that are less serious is not giving parents the complete picture.

I honestly can't imagine why anyone would be against a bill simply requesting there be informed consent about a drug before it is given to children. This is a move in the right direction. Transparency is never wrong.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB #1161.

Sincerely,

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