

FAV HB1161

Denee Daly, Harford County, MD

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Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk Chair - House Health and Government Operations Committee

HB1161 Public Health – Human Papillomavirus Vaccine – Information and Informed Consent
(Christina’s Law)

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify in favor of HB1161, Christina’s Law. I’m here because I’m a parent and I support Christina’s Law.

Since HPV vaccines were relatively new when my son was first eligible to receive them, I wanted more information before consenting.

As expected, the Pediatrician recommended the HPV vaccine. I recall the Doctor’s assurances that the HPV vaccine would not have been approved unless it had been rigorously tested and was safe. He told me how the vaccine was needed to protect against cancer. He described to me and, inappropriately, to my young son, the horrors of anal cancer and throat cancer.

I recall having to ask for literature with more information about the vaccine itself. This was memorable for me because the Pediatrician was clearly not happy I asked for more information, which actually alarmed me.

I know now that I should not have had to ask for more information; that by law the Vaccine Information Statements ([VIS](#)) describing the specific risks/benefits of the vaccine must be given prior to vaccination. It makes me wonder how many HPV vaccines have been administered without this crucial information.

Parents need to be informed about the actual prevalence of HPV related cancers. Before the HPV vaccines, HPV associated cancers, including anal, penile and throat, have been reported to be very low (under 1%). It is important for parents to know the strains the vaccine actually targets, as well as the HPV strains it does not target. They need to know the current cancer rates most associated with each strain. The parent and the child need to know vaccine does not address all high risk HPVs, nor does it target actual cancers. They also need to know that vaccinate adverse events can occur weeks or months after vaccination.

As a parent, I needed to know my sons actual risk from the vaccine and what adverse event symptoms I should watch for. As these risks could include autoimmune or heart symptoms, this is important information that is not on the currently VIS, but needs to be included.

I have since had an opportunity to read the Gardasil Package insert. It is concerning to me that the insert stated: “GARDASIL has not been evaluated for the potential to cause carcinogenicity or genotoxicity.” (file attached for reference.) All parents need to know this important information.

For these reasons, especially to ensure parents receive complete information about HVP vaccination, I respectfully request your favorable report on HB1161 Public Health – Human Papillomavirus Vaccine – Information and Informed Consent (Christina’s Law).