

HB 1161 / FAVORABLE

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the HGO Committee-

Thank you for your time. I am submitting this testimony in strong SUPPORT of HB 1161. Over the past few years, I have had the honor of meeting and talking with many individuals and families whose lives have been impacted by vaccine injury or death. As rare as we are told it is, it is all too REAL for them- and to add to their tragedy, these families often find themselves completely abandoned by their medical providers, their government, and their community. They are on their own to pick up the pieces after losing a child... or to navigate treatments and prescriptions... or to shoulder the immense financial burden of a complex medical diagnosis.

I often wonder how different their lives would be if they had been given the opportunity for true informed consent before they accepted the medical procedure that would change their lives forever. With HB 1161, **Maryland has a huge opportunity to LEAD the nation** by providing a supplemental information sheet prior to HPV vaccination. When the potential consequences can be so devastating, this additional informed consent step is not only common sense- it is also exactly the kind of consumer safeguard that the people of our state deserve.

I urge the committee to move this bill forward.

- Jenna DeCesaris Butler
Anne Arundel County, Maryland