



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 14, 2023

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk  
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB 1161 – Public Health – Human Papillomavirus Vaccine – Information and Informed Consent (Christina’s Law) – Letter of Opposition**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is submitting this letter of opposition for House Bill (HB) 1161 – Public Health – Human Papillomavirus Vaccine – Information and Informed Consent (Christina’s Law). This bill will require healthcare providers to provide an individual or parent/guardian with a Maryland supplemental HPV vaccination information sheet and obtain written consent on a unique Maryland HPV vaccine consent form.

HB 1161 will require Maryland healthcare providers to present patients receiving the HPV vaccine with two conflicting information sheets. Currently, under the federal National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act,<sup>1</sup> all healthcare providers in the United States who administer any of the routinely recommended vaccines – including HPV vaccine – must provide the patient with a copy of the most recent Vaccine Information Statement (VIS). VISs provide a brief description of the disease and the risks and benefits of the vaccine. VISs are updated periodically by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) based on scientific literature and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP). The ACIP is composed of medical and public health experts who develop recommendations on the use of vaccines.

Additionally, the information sheet required by HB 1161 presents information contrary to what is published in peer-reviewed scientific literature and what healthcare providers receive from their respective professional organizations. HB 1161 will place MDH in an undesirable position of both defending vaccine information that is unsupported by data as well as opposing recommendations from professional medical organizations, which will create confusion among healthcare providers and families.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Peters, Acting Director of Governmental Affairs at [megan.peters@maryland.gov](mailto:megan.peters@maryland.gov) or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary

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<sup>1</sup> 42 U.S.C. §300aa-26