

On January 21, 2015, I took my daughter Jazmyne Hendricks, who was just 15 years of age, for her yearly checkup. Her Pediatrician, Dr. Parish, practically coerced me into allowing her to give my daughter the HPV Gardasil vaccine. She stated the importance of the vaccine and its prevention of ovarian cancer. Not once did she ever disclose to me any of the risk factors and deadly side effects.

On August 08, 2016, we returned for the HPV 9 dosage as Dr Parish recommended. Again, no risks or side effects were ever mentioned to me by my daughter's pediatrician whom I very much trusted.

Not long after my daughter was vaccinated with this poison, she started having really bad headaches. She was also dropping her cereal bowls, cups, etc. She was falling inside the shower and up and down the steps. I knew something was wrong with my child, so we took her to Johns Hopkins Hospital to be evaluated. Our conversation was overheard by an intern Neurologist who was suspicious. She immediately performed tests on our daughter. That is the day that would forever change our lives. We were informed that our daughter had Juvenile Myoclonic Epilepsy. We were devastated to say the least! I cried for days on end. I was beside myself. I could not understand how my daughter went from being a perfectly healthy teenage girl to this. The seizures only got worse. My daughter fall down to the floor and into full blown convulsions. I have picked her helpless body off many floors and to recovery. She has busted her lip open, and has many scars from cuts on her body. We have spent years in and out of hospitals to get her the help she needs. I have driven miles to Philadelphia to the Children's Hospital to desperately seek second opinions and help.

My daughter once had a seizure in the shower with the door locked by mistake. I had to use my entire body to knock down the door to get to her. I injured myself in the process and would do it again. We have spent time and money on every medication, medicinal medication, acupuncture etc. I worry every single day for the safety of my daughter. I call her numerous times throughout the day to check on her. If I do not hear from her, I'll send the Police to do a welfare check. My daughter has to do online classes from home and not attend on a college campus. I am so afraid to allow her to drive even though she now has her license. So, myself, and her dad, transport her to wherever she wants to go. It hurts my heart to know that she does not feel completely independent and has to rely us. If she does not receive enough sleep, she will have bad jerks or seizures. Every single day of my life, I blame myself for allowing her pediatrician to give to her that vaccine. If I'd been given the risks and side effects of that vaccine, I would have NEVER allowed them to hurt my child. I cry and hurt so much as I write this letter.

Informed Consent should be mandatory. I urge the Chair and Committee members to vote in favor of HB 1161.

Sincerely,

Matilda Blankenship