



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill: House Bill 1161 - Public Health – Human Papillomavirus Vaccine – Information and Informed Consent (Christina’s Law)

Hearing Date: March 14, 2023

Position: Oppose

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) strongly opposes *House Bill 1161 - Public Health – Human Papillomavirus Vaccine – Information and Informed Consent (Christina’s Law)*.

ACNM strongly opposes this bill. The required statements on the information sheet proposed in the bill present misleading information and may discourage people from getting this live-saving vaccine. HPV vaccines have been proven to be safe and effective.ⁱ Every year in the United States, 33,700 woman and men are diagnosed with a cancer caused by HPV infection and the HPV vaccine could prevent more than 90% of these cancers, 31,200 cases every year, from ever developing.^{ii,iii} In addition, recent studies show that declines in cervical cancer deaths in the US are partly due to the HPV vaccine. Simply put, the HPV vaccine is saving lives and people should not be discouraged from getting it.

We ask for an unfavorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

ⁱ <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/infectious-agents/hpv-vaccine-fact-sheet#q4>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/protecting-patients.html#:~:text=HPV%20vaccination%20could%20prevent%20more,the%20United%20States%20every%20year.&text=Cervical%20cancer%20is%20the%20only,detection%20at%20an%20early%20stage>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.fda.gov/newsevents/newsroom/pressannouncements/ucm622715.htm>