

HB 1161
FVA (Favorable)
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I am a Maryland resident and a mother of two, by now college age students. I am testifying today in favor of HB1161 because I strongly believe that the elements in Christina's Law introduce important missing steps needed in our society to achieve acceptable standards for informed consent regarding HPV vaccination. The US Supreme Court stated that "vaccines are unavoidably and inherently unsafe". But our society doesn't know this fact and it seems that health administrators, regulators, doctors, and pharmaceutical companies don't make it easy to find out the general risk-benefit characteristics of especially new vaccines, in this case of the HPV vaccine. Christina's Law would assure that the individual or his/her parents or guardian would be provided a certain information sheet and that a written consent on a certain form would need to be obtained prior to HPV vaccination. This would help achieve informed consent.

The bill specifies what constitutes an adverse event which are the risks associated with the HPV vaccine, it names which health care provider is to provide the Vaccine Information Sheet, and states that the role of providing this Maryland Supplemental Information Sheet is to help reach informed consent. All of the details outlined in the bill are needed and would ideally be already available in our society. But as a parent, I have not ever been provided with such a sheet when I took my children for the numerous vaccination appointments.

In our society, unsafe products are brought to market and these then are promoted to citizens. Most everyone knows that we can't trust a used car sales person. But, do we know if we can trust our government, regulators, doctors or pharmaceutical companies to tell us what vaccines to take? I would like to create a survey on what % of people in our society has ever seen a Vaccine Information Sheet, how many of us has true informed consent.

Regarding the HPV vaccine, do we as citizens know that 90% HPV clears naturally?, that cervical cancer is preventable via regular pap screening?, that rates of HPV associated cancers have been very low, under 1% in the US?, what adverse events are associated with HPV vaccines?, or that the vaccine producer is not liable for adverse events? Do we know that regulatory agencies get

royalties on the sale of the vaccine or that the manufacturer gets handsome profit as the vaccine is very expensive to make? Or for that matter, do we know that the VAERS reporting rate for the Gardasil vaccine was 3x greater than that for all other vaccines combined?

Christina's Law would ensure that citizens are given key information about the HPV vaccine which they need for informed consent and therefore it needs a favorable vote.