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MAYOR

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HB 1161

March 14, 2023

TO: Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Interim Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

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

POSITION: Oppose

Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **opposes** House Bill (HB) 1161.

HB 1161 would require health care providers to provide certain information to an individual and/or their parent or guardian before administering a human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, as well as obtain their written consent on a certain form. This legislation would add an additional layer of consent for the HPV vaccine. This is unnecessary because Federal law (under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act) already requires healthcare professionals to provide a copy of the current Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) to an adult patient or to a child's parent/legal representative before vaccinating an adult or child for certain diseases, including HPV.¹ HPV is a common sexually transmitted infection, affecting nearly 90% of sexually active US men and 80% of sexually active US women at some point in their lifetimes.² Some types of HPV can cause cancer, with the virus causing approximately 36,000 cancer cases each year in the US.³ HPV cases – and subsequently, cancer – can be prevented through vaccination.

VISs are documents produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in consultation with panels of experts and parents, to properly inform patients (or their parents/legal representatives) about the risks and benefits of each vaccine. There is no need to produce a separate information sheet specifically on HPV, when federal law already requires the use of VISs in both public and private sector settings, regardless of the source of payment for the vaccine. The HPV vaccine should not be treated any differently than other vaccinations and adds undue burden on the health care provider.

The VISs are updated regularly by the CDC and are available to the public and health care providers on the Immunization Action Coalition's website (immunize.org). Additionally, all VISs are available in multiple languages (a concern addressed in HB 1161).

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests an **unfavorable** report on HB 1161.

¹ Immunize.org. (Formerly Immunization Action Coalition). (2022). "You Must Provide Patients with Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) – It's Federal Law!" Retrieved from www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2027.pdf

² Maryland Department of Health. (n.d.). Cancer – HPV (Human Papillomavirus). Retrieved from <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/cancer/Pages/HPV.aspx>

³ https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/parents/about-hpv.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fhpv%2Fparents%2Fwhatishpv.html