

## HB 1161 - FAV

Distinguished members of the Maryland State Delegation Health and Government Operations (HGO) Committee, I write to you to ask for your support of **HB 1161-Public Health – Human Papillomavirus Vaccine – Information and Informed Consent (Christina’s Law)**. The main objective of this bill is to provide true informed consent. I’m sure we can all agree it is the right of every individual to be armed with a complete understanding of the risks and benefits of a pharmaceutical project such as the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine before making an informed decision. Unfortunately, the current vaccine information statement (VIS) provided by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which is given to the individual or parent/guardian at the time of vaccination, does not paint a complete picture of HPV, nor is it inclusive of the known risks associated with the vaccine. For example, the VIS does not inform the individual that in 90% of people, the virus clears itself from the body in two years with no treatment. The VIS does not inform one that rates of HPV-related cancers are extremely low and are typically diagnosed in people over the age of 50 with risk factors. It also does not state that individuals must continue to get regular pap screenings. Missing from the VIS is the fact that females who have existing strains of HPV 16 and 18 at the time of vaccination have an increased risk of getting cervical cancer. Also missing from the VIS is a listing of actual adverse events caused by the HPV vaccine such as autoimmune disorders, Guillain-Barre syndrome, heart arrhythmias, encephalomyelitis, transverse myelitis, paralysis, premature ovarian failure, seizures, and death to name a few. With a higher rate of adverse events being reported to the US Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VEARS) for the HPV vaccine compared to other vaccines, one would think these possible adverse reactions should be listed on the VIS. Unfortunately, not all medical providers are fully aware of the statistics regarding HPV and the risks and benefits of the HPV vaccine as I have witnessed firsthand. When I asked my child’s pediatrician about the risk and benefits of the vaccine, she could not answer my questions. The only thing she was able to tell me was that if my child suffered an adverse reaction, I could report it to VAERS. That response did not give me peace of mind. Therefore, providing the necessary information needed for true informed consent through a Maryland supplemental information sheet will provide Marylanders with a more comprehensive understanding of HPV and the true risks and benefits associated with the HPV vaccine. All Marylanders deserve nothing less.

Thank you for your time and support.

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