



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

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TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Kathy Szeliga

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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DATE: March 14, 2023

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

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, we submit this letter of **opposition** for House Bill 1161.

House Bill 1161 requires Maryland to develop a Maryland supplemental information sheet and a Maryland Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine consent form and specifies what must be included in the forms and how they are to be distributed. There are no analogous requirements for any other vaccines and the requirements of this bill run counter to the standard of care related to consent for immunization as well as the provision of information and education regarding vaccines.

Furthermore, the specification of what is to be reflected in the supplemental information sheet and HPV consent form will further heighten the already inaccurate and unsubstantiated concern about the HPV vaccine. The anti-HPV vaccine advocacy of the bill’s proponents has already resulted in the failure of many individuals to receive this critical vaccine, thereby putting themselves at enhanced risk for the cancer-causing HPV infections and cervical precancers.

House Bill 1161 will undermine improving HPV vaccination rates which is a public health priority and create a dangerous precedent for other approved vaccines in the future. An unfavorable report is requested.