

Protect Women's Health

OPPOSE HPV Vaccination Repeal or Delay

HB 89 and 188 Delegate R. Marshall and SB 722 Senator Cuccinelli

HB 89 and SB 722 remove the HPV vaccine from the Board of Health's list of required immunizations for attendance at public or private schools.

HB 188 delays addition of the HPV vaccine to the Board of Health's list of required immunizations for attendance at public or private schools from October 1, 2008, to October 1, 2011.

NOTE: When § 32.1-46 of the Code of Virginia was amended to include the HPV vaccination requirement, an additional parental opt-out provision was also added: *Because the human papillomavirus is not communicable in a school setting, a parent or guardian, at the parent's or guardian's sole discretion, may elect for the parent's or guardian's child not to receive the human papillomavirus vaccine, after having reviewed materials describing the link between the human papillomavirus and cervical cancer approved for such use by the Board.*

Prevention of cervical cancer has widespread and bi-partisan support in Virginia

- Between 1998 and 2002, about 300 women in Virginia were diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer each year, for a rate of 7.9 cases per 100,000 women. This is slightly lower than the national rate of 8.7 per 100,000.¹
- In April 2007, Governor Kaine approved and enacted a bill, which was supported by 122 out of the 140 members of the VA General Assembly, that adds the HPV vaccine to the Virginia Board of Health's list of required immunizations for attendance at a public or private elementary, middle or secondary school, child care center, nursery school, family day care home or developmental center.
- All can agree that cancer prevention is preferable to cancer treatment.

The HPV vaccine is safe.

- This vaccine meets the FDA requirements for approval. It has been tested extensively to ensure safety.
- The experiences of patients receiving the vaccine since FDA approval have been consistent with the clinical trials and are consistent with typical immune responses to vaccines.
- The HPV vaccine does not contain any mercury or thimerosal.

The best way to eradicate cervical cancer is widespread HPV vaccination.

- Gardasil, the only FDA-approved HPV vaccine, protects against the most virulent strains of HPV that cause 70% of cervical cancers.
- Given the high cost of the HPV vaccine (approximately \$360 for the series of three shots), adding it to the list of required immunizations is critical to making the vaccine accessible through coverage by private health insurers and government vaccination programs.
- The most successful immunization programs, such as those for polio, are those that require immunization for school entry.

¹ CDC. Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER): State Cancer Profiles, 2005.