



Liberty Volunteers  
Liberty-Volunteers@groups.io

March 6, 2023

The Honorable Assemblyman Jim Wood  
Chair, Assembly Health Committee  
State Capitol, Room 390  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 659 (Cancer Prevention Act)  
As Amended February 17 2023 – OPPOSE  
Set for hearing in the Assembly Health Committee - March 14, 2023

Dear Assemblyman Wood:

Moms for Liberty Santa Clara County CA and Liberty Volunteers find ourselves having to take an oppose position on Assembly Bill 659, the *Cancer Prevention Act*. AB 659 would make significant, unnecessary, and overly intrusive changes to vaccination requirements for middle school attendees.

The proposed new law would add human papillomavirus (HPV), a sexually transmitted disease, to the list of existing diseases for which immunization is required for school attendance. The bill would specifically prohibit schools from admitting or advancing a pupil to the 8th grade in any public or private school if the pupil did not receive a vaccination designed to prevent transmission of HPV.

Our objections can be summarized in the following handful of comments.

Point 1. Per the CDC's own information on HPV [1]: "In most cases (9 out of 10), HPV goes away on its own within two years without health problems. But when HPV does not go away, it can cause health problems like genital warts and cancer." So only 10% of those who contract HPV will actually develop further health issues, with just a fraction of those resulting in some sort of cancer. It should be pointed out that although many genotypes of HPV have been shown to be *associated* with cancer, none has yet to be proven to *cause* cancer. Understanding this, you wish still to require the vaccination of every child entering the 8th grade in California?

Point 2. According to a study done on adolescent romantic relationships [2], only about one in three 13-year-olds has had a "romantic relationship", the definition of which includes both relationships of a sexual and non-sexual nature. What is the actual number of people you are looking to protect by having this mandate apply to all 8th graders?

Point 3. Unlike other diseases which students are vaccinated against, there are proven effective ways to prevent the transmission of HPV that do not involve the need to administer a vaccine. Again per the CDC [1]:

If you are sexually active:

Use condoms the right way every time you have sex. This can lower your chances of getting HPV. But HPV can infect areas the condom does not cover. So, condoms may not fully protect against getting HPV; and

Be in a mutually monogamous relationship -- or have sex only with someone who only has sex with you.

The CDC fails to mention the other foolproof option, namely to abstain from having sex.

Point 4. Students as young as 12 years of age are already being provided the means to choose to take vaccinations they feel are necessary. That being the case, why the need to require via mandate that this new vaccine be taken by *everyone*, including those who are not sexually active?

Point 5. There are a number of people who suggest that Merck's version of the HPV vaccine, Gardasil®, is not without serious side effects, especially in the area of neurological issues. We would hope to see some response from Merck regarding these incidents.

"Scientists have not yet been able to determine exactly what causes normal cells to transform into cancerous cells. It is much the same for adverse events experienced after vaccination with Gardasil. No one has been able to prove Gardasil causes new medical conditions such as nerve damage, but the association is clearly there. To date, there have been 21,292 adverse events reported to VAERS after HPV vaccinations -- many of these reports include cases of nerve damage." [3]

"A Michigan woman indicates she was diagnosed with numerous autoimmune and neurological disorders caused by the HPV vaccine Gardasil, according to a product liability lawsuit brought this month against the manufacturer, Merck & Co.. The complaint (PDF) [4] was filed by Erika Snell in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, alleging that users and the medical community were not adequately warned about serious and long-term risks associated with the HPV vaccine." [5]

"The HPV vaccine has a reassuring safety profile, but reports have emerged of acute disseminated encephalomyelitis following its administration. Acute hemorrhagic leukoencephalitis (AHLE) is a severe inflammatory disease of the central nervous system and the most fulminant form of ADEM. We report a previously healthy 14-year-old boy who developed headache, fatigue, focal weakness, and confusion 3 weeks after receiving the HPV vaccine. Neuroimaging demonstrated multifocal demyelination. Despite treatment with high-dose steroids, his encephalopathy worsened. He developed severe cerebral edema and died of cerebral herniation. Postmortem histology revealed perivenular sleeves of tissue damage, myelin loss surrounding small parenchymal vessels, and diffuse hemorrhagic necrosis, consistent with AHLE. This is the first report of AHLE following HPV vaccination." [6]

"[...] patient developed symptoms of ACA, including nausea, vertigo, severe limb and truncal ataxia, and bilateral spontaneous continuous horizontal nystagmus with irregular rhythm, 12 days after administration of the HPV-16/18 AS04-adjuvanted cervical cancer vaccine. After this, the patient received methylprednisolone pulse and intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg) therapies as well as immunoadsorption plasmapheresis." [7]

"Vaccination is generally considered safe in patients with multiple sclerosis (MS). We report five patients who presented with multifocal or atypical demyelinating syndromes within 21 days of immunization with the quadrivalent human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine, Gardasil. Although the target population for vaccination, young females, has an inherently high risk for MS, the temporal association with demyelinating events in these cases may be explained by the potent immunostimulatory properties of HPV virus-like particles which comprise the vaccine. A prospective case-control study of patients with MS or clinically isolated demyelinating syndromes receiving the Gardasil vaccine may provide relevant safety data in this population." [7]

"A 19-year-old woman received two doses of Gardasil, 3 months apart, and approximately 1 month after the second dose, she developed numbness to the right foot that within 1 day extended to the contralateral foot and was associated with mid-thoracic back pain. Her neurological examination was only significant for the altered perception to touch to the feet. Deep tendon reflexes were normal and plantar reflexes in flexion. MRI of cervical and thoracic spine revealed a total of three lesions with characteristic demyelinating appearance, one of those in the thoracic spine was contrast-enhancing (figure 1A-C). MRI brain demonstrated one additional white matter lesion also consistent with a demyelinating process." [7]

"[...] cases of four young women that developed demyelinating disease after the vaccination of the HPV, with a rank of time between the administration of the dose and the development of the clinical of seven days to a month, with similar symptoms with the successive doses. We have described six episodes coinciding after the vaccination. [...] seizures, autoimmune disorders such as Guillain-Barre syndrome, transverse myelitis, or motor neuron disease, probably adverse effects following immunization by HPV vaccine. So we suggest that vaccine may trigger an immunological mechanism leading to demyelinating events, perhaps in predisposed young." [7]

"[...] two cases of acute disseminated encephalomyelitis (ADEM) following vaccination against human papilloma virus (HPV). Case 1 experienced diplopia and developed an unstable gait 14 days after a second vaccination of Cervarix. Brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) showed an isolated small, demyelinating lesion in the pontine tegmentum. Case 2 experienced a fever and limb dysesthesia 16 days after a second vaccination of Gardasil. Brain MRI revealed hyperintense lesion in the pons with slight edema on a T2-weighted image. Both cases resolved completely. It is important to accumulate further data on confirmed cases of ADEM temporally associated with HPV vaccination." [7]

"We report a case of neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder (NMOSD) that was noteworthy because optic neuritis (ON) occurred in a very close temporal association with both the first and second HPV vaccinations, which might suggest an association between HPV vaccination and the development of NMO-IgG and recurrent ON." [7]

The members of our organizations would appreciate hearing back from you regarding the aforementioned issues. We remain open to receiving new information from the vaccine manufacturer, but at this time have taken an **oppose** position based on our significant concerns with the bill in print. If you require additional information about our position on AB 659, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at the email address below our signatures.

Sincerely,



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cc: The Honorable Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi, Chair of the Education Committee  
Honorable Members, Assembly Health Committee  
Honorable Members, Assembly Education Committee  
Alexa Chavez, Staff Member for Assemblywoman Aguiar-Curry

Notes:

- [1] CDC website [www.cdc.gov/std/hpv/stdfact-hpv.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/std/hpv/stdfact-hpv.htm)
- [2] Collins, W. A., Welsh, D. R., & Furman, W. (2009). Adolescent romantic relationships. Annual Review of Psychology, 60, 631-652. doi:10.1146/annurev.psych.60.110707.163459
- [3] Vaccine injury website [www.vaccineinjuryhelpcenter.com/hpv-vaccine-associated-nerve-damage/](http://www.vaccineinjuryhelpcenter.com/hpv-vaccine-associated-nerve-damage/)
- [4] ERIKA N. SNELL v. MERCK & CO., INC. and MERCK SHARP & DOHME LLC Case 3:23-cv-00072 filed February 7 2023 in the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina Charlotte Division
- [5] About Lawsuits website [www.aboutlawsuits.com/hpv-vaccine-gardasil-lawsuit](http://www.aboutlawsuits.com/hpv-vaccine-gardasil-lawsuit)
- [6] Sage Journals website journals.[sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2329048X211016109](https://sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2329048X211016109)
- [7] Med Science Research website [medscienceresearch.com/neurological/](https://medscienceresearch.com/neurological/)