M.O.M.

MICHIGAN OPPOSING MANDATORY VACCINES
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November 14, 2006

TO: Members of the House Committee on Health Policy

RE: Testimony offered for Senate Bill 1416 and 1417

On behalf of the members of Michigan Opposing Mandatory Vaccines (M.O.M.), I am testifying in opposition to Senate Bills 1416 and 1417.

Briefly, M.O.M. was formed in late 1994 to preserve a parent's right to decline the use of vaccines as a method of health care for themselves and their children. M.O.M. is not "anti-vaccine". We believe parents have the ultimate right and responsibility to make vaccine choices for their children. Most of our directors are health care professionals. M.O.M.'s membership is composed both of individuals who choose to have their children vaccinated and those who do not.

We oppose mandating the human pappillomavirus (HPV) vaccine for the following reasons:

The HPV vaccine should be optional for school entry.
Give parents and women information on HPV for review. Let them decide what is best for their health situation.

There are no long term studies on the HPV for its safety and effectiveness.
According to the Merck product manufacturer insert for the HPV vaccine Gardasil, there was 1 case of juvenile arthritis, 2 cases of rheumatoid arthritis, 5 cases of arthritis, and 1 case of reactive arthritis out of 11,813 Gardasil recipients plus 1 case of lupus and 2 cases of arthritis out of 9,701 participants primarily receiving an aluminum containing placebo. Clinical trial investigators dismissed most of the 102 Gardasil and placebo associated serious adverse events, including 17 deaths, occurring in the clinical trials as unrelated.

Mandating the HPV vaccine was summed up by the National Vaccine Information Center in this way: "There is too little long term safety and efficacy data, especially in young girls, and too little labeling information on contraindications for the CDC to recommend Gardasil for universal use, which is a signal for states to mandate it. Nobody at Merck, the CDC or FDA know if the injection of Gardasil into all pre-teen girls – especially simultaneously with hepatitis B vaccine – will make some of them more likely to develop arthritis or other inflammatory autoimmune and brain disorders as teenagers and adults. With cervical cancer causing about one percent of all cancer deaths in American women due to routine pap screening, it was inappropriate for the FDA to fast track Gardasil. It is way too early to direct all young girls to get three doses of a vaccine that has not been proven safe or effective in their age group."

The vaccine manufacturer cannot be sued directly if there is a subsequent injury.
A vaccine manufacturer becomes immune from liability once a vaccine is added to the list of mandated vaccinations. If the young girl suffers an injury or health problem, a claim must be filed through the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.

It is discriminatory against women.
The HPV vaccine mandate will force only young adolescent girls to take a vaccine.

Rather than mandating the HPV Vaccine for 6th grade girls, M.O.M. asks that legislation be passed to require the Michigan Department of Community Health to disseminate information about HPV to the parents of students attending public and private schools.

A similar measure was passed in 2001 for meningococcal disease as a compromise to mandating a meningococcal vaccine for college and high school students. This legislation was introduced as House Bill No. 4562 by Representative Lauren Hager and became Public Act No. 163 of 2001.

M.O.M. appreciates the health concerns about HPV and the efforts of our legislators are making. We believe that parents and women, with the help of their health care providers, can best determine the proper actions to take. Making information about HPV to parents through the schools would be an appropriate course of action.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Suzanne M. Waltman
President,
Michigan Opposing Mandatory Vaccines

Act No. 163
Public Acts of 2001
Approved by the Governor
November 6, 2001
Filed with the Secretary of State
November 7, 2001
EFFECTIVE DATE: November 7, 2001

STATE OF MICHIGAN
91ST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2001

Introduced by Reps. Hager, Ehardt, Meyer, Pappageorge, Julian and Birkholz

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 4562

AN ACT to amend 1978 PA 368, entitled "An act to protect and promote the public health; to codify, revise, consolidate, classify, and add to the laws relating to public health; to provide for the prevention and control of diseases and disabilities; to provide for the classification, administration, regulation, financing, and maintenance of personal, environmental, and other health services and activities; to create or continue, and prescribe the powers and duties of, departments, boards, commissions, councils, committees, task forces, and other agencies; to prescribe the powers and duties of governmental entities and officials; to regulate occupations, facilities, and agencies affecting the public health; to regulate health maintenance organizations and certain third party administrators and insurers; to provide for the imposition of a regulatory fee; to promote the efficient and economical delivery of health care services, to provide for the appropriate utilization of health care facilities and services, and to provide for the closure of hospitals or consolidation of hospitals or services; to provide for the collection and use of data and information; to provide for the transfer of property; to provide certain immunity from liability; to regulate and prohibit the sale and offering for sale of drug paraphernalia under certain circumstances; to provide for the implementation of federal law; to provide for penalties and remedies; to provide for sanctions for violations of this act and local ordinances; to repeal certain acts and parts of acts; to repeal certain parts of this act; and to repeal certain parts of this act on specific dates," (MCL 333.1101 to 333.25211) by adding section 9205a.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 9205a. (1) The department shall identify materials that contain information regarding the risks associated with meningococcal disease and the availability, effectiveness, and potential risks of immunization for meningococcal disease, and other diseases about which the department may recommend immunization or immunization information.

(2) The department shall notify each institution of higher education and high school in this state of the availability of the materials described in subsection (1) and post the materials on its website.

(3) The department shall encourage each institution of higher education in this state to provide or make available to students enrolled in the institution of higher education, and each high school in this state to provide or make available to parents of students attending the high school, information regarding the risks associated with meningococcal disease and the availability, effectiveness, and potential risks of immunization for meningococcal disease and other diseases about which the department may recommend immunization or immunization information.

(4) As used in this section, "institution of higher education" means a degree or certificate granting public or private college or university, junior college, or community college.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Secretary of the Senate.

Approved .....

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Governor.