

To: Senator Mary Daugherty Abrams , Co-Chair  
Representative Jonathan Steinberg, Co-Chair  
Senator Matt Lesser, Vice Chair  
Representative Philip L. Young, Vice Chair  
Senator Heather Somers, Ranking Member  
Representative William A. Petit

From: Pam Lucashu, Durham

Re: Testimony in Opposition to RSB 858 and SB 94

Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg and Members of the Public Health Committee, I ask you to **vote no on RSB 858 An Act Concerning the Prophylactic Treatment of Minors for Sexually Transmitted Diseases**, which would permit prophylactic treatment of minors without parental consent. I also ask that you vote No on **SB 94, an Act Allowing Pharmacists to Administer the Influenza Vaccine to Children Twelve Years of Age and Older**.

#### **RSB 858**

This bill is an infringement of parental rights, and a health risk to children. Adding prophylactic treatment drives a wedge between parents and children, instead of promoting honest discussions that could help the relationship and the child. When the government steps in only to treat, the child ends up abandoned. The government cannot help the child navigate the personal and moral questions involved, and it has destroyed the child's confidence in the parents' authority.

RSB 858 poses a health risk to minors in that the minors are not as familiar with, or may be reluctant to disclose, their health history. Without a full medical history, children are more vulnerable to adverse reactions to treatment, and may not even make the connection between treatment and the reaction in order to get the proper follow-up care. Adding prophylactic treatment to the existing law encourages peer pressure for children who might not otherwise engage in sexual behavior.

RSB 858 is overly broad in its language. Its counterpart last year, SB 216, was – we were told- geared towards preventing HIV. But the language of the current bill leaves it open for the possible administration of HPV vaccines, the most dangerous vaccines on the market. See <http://www.acpeds.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/1.26.16-New-Concerns-about-the-HPV-vaccine.pdf>.

Please respect the privacy of the family, the rights of the parents, and the health of the children. Vote No on RSB 858.

#### **SB 94**

SB 94 also violates parental rights because it does not specify that parental consent is required for the vaccination. A minor appearing alone, unfamiliar with their health history or risks, could obtain a shot from a pharmacist without any backup medical personnel to intervene in the case of a reaction. If a minor receives a shot and doesn't disclose that to a parent, there is a risk that the child could receive multiple doses.

Federal Law requires that all parents be given the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for all vaccines given to a minor child. <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/USCODE-2010-title42/USCODE-2010-title42-chap6A> (sec 300aa-26, page 1163). The statements are written at a 10<sup>th</sup> grade level and cannot be understood by a minor. See <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/about/vis-faqs.html>.

Please preserve parental rights and the health safety of minors by voting No on SB 94.