

I am asking you oppose SB 94 which would allow minor children at the age of 12 to receive a flu vaccine from a pharmacist without parental consent. When the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 was instated it was written that all parents must be given the Vaccination Information Statement (VIS) prior to any vaccine being given to a minor. No 12 year old child can even begin to comprehend what is written in these pages nor should they even be taxed with this responsibility to begin with.

At the age of 12 children utilize a different portion of their brain when making decisions involving emotional and impulsive responses. Because of the ongoing brain development, children in this age bracket are not capable of making decisions that are free of impulsivity or that accurately assess risk. Risk assessment is a critical component used by parents, Guardians, and care providers when discussing prophylactic medical treatment such as vaccination.

It is also important to note that by Connecticut Law a child must be at least 16 years old to be legally emancipated as well as meeting other conditions to petition. This would include the ability to seek medical attention without parental consent. There is a vast difference between someone who is 12 years old and someone who is 16 years old and because brain development differs between individuals many 16 year olds are still not capable of making appropriate risk assessment.

In conclusion, removing parents and guardians from the medical decision-making of children is not only a violation of parental rights but clearly negligent in regards to the mental and decision making capabilities of minor children.

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