

Dear Senators on the Health and Welfare Committee,

Current Vermont law allows minors to consent to *treatment* of sexually transmitted infections (STI's or venereal disease), but not *preventive* modalities such as Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), Hepatitis B vaccination and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV. Our adolescents should have the right to decide these important issues with informed consent for themselves and not be subject to being overruled by a parent who disagrees. Parents overruling their adolescent's wishes in this situation upstream can have serious consequences downstream when our health care system must deal with treatment of these infections, that can range from a minor annoyance to serious congenital infections in newborns with major lifelong physical and mental consequences. A tragic missed opportunity. All of this is preventable, and a parent should not be able to overrule their adolescent in this situation.

Making this change in Vermont law makes public health sense; and no matter whether an adolescent is already sexually active or not, why deny them the right to protect their own bodies?

--gk

*Gregory King, MD*  
Board Certified Family Physician



Mount Anthony Primary Care  
Member of *Primary Care Health Partners*  
655 Main St.  
Bennington, VT 05201  
Tel. 802-447-2343  
Fax 802-442-4636