

Dear Senators,

Please remove section 7 from S. 151, which slips in language permitting minors to receive STD prevention services without parental consent.

I am a licensed health educator in Vermont, and my experience in the classroom with thousands of adolescents has made me well aware of the fact that there are serious risks associated with reproductive services, and that those risks are downplayed, or even totally ignored, in the health curriculum as it is delivered to students in Vermont schools.

Health educators are not required to learn about the risks associated with the reproductive health products we are required to teach about. The only reason I was aware of how common it is to experience serious side effects from the HPV vaccine is because my students told me about what happened to them. I was shocked to discover how many young people are hurt by this one intervention. In light of the harm this vaccine causes, it should **not** be made more accessible- If anything, there should be a serious cost/benefit analysis called for that takes into account the harm done by the vaccine vs. the slim chances that HPV will develop into a serious health issue in the future.

Not to mention that there are other interventions that can help prevent HPV, such as limiting the number of sexual partners while in adolescence, which is safer all around.

At least with parental consent, a youth who experiences side effects will have a caretaker involved who understands what is happening and can help the youth when and if they occur. This is the current status, and I suggest we keep it that way.

Thank you for your consideration.

Please let me know if I can help clarify this subject further.

Sincerely,  
Amy Hornblas  
Cabot, Vermont