

LIVONIA

Central School District

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Dear Assemblywoman Byrnes & Senator Borrello,

It has come to our attention, through our district families and constituents, that bills are under consideration that would enact health law that requires all children receive the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine as part of the state's mandated school immunization program. We are writing today to **express our opposition to enacting any health law such as HPV that mandates vaccinations for viruses that are not transmitted in schools.**

The HPV vaccination has historically been a parental decision, is not transmitted in schools, lacks the full support of the medical community and would require schools to enforce a widely unpopular mandate by excluding children. HPV is spread by intimate sexual contact and therefore is not an epidemic infectious disease among school-aged children. Vaccines previously mandated for universal use are those which protect the public's health against agents easily communicated, responsible for epidemics, or causing significant morbidity or mortality among those passively exposed to the illness. HPV is not an agent in that category and therefore should NOT be a mandated vaccine for school immunization.

Please be aware that families in our community have already notified the District that should the proposed bills to add the HPV vaccination to public health law section 2164 be made law, they will not vaccinate their children and their children will as a result be excluded from our school.

Amendments made last year to health law section 2164, which prohibited the use of religious exemptions for vaccination requirements strained the relationships between our educators and families by requiring schools to enforce the amendment through excluding children. It resulted in children in our district missing extended time in school and several students are now being homeschooled by families who had no previous intention of homeschooling. It is a certainty that mandating the HPV vaccination for school enrollment will create more dissonance between school and families. It will result in many more students being excluded from school. We don't believe this is an acceptable outcome based on the limited risk HPV presents within the school setting.

Again, we write this letter to urge you to **oppose** any legislation that unnecessarily limits parental rights to choose the health care precautions they deem appropriate for their children. Specifically, please **oppose** the legislation to include the HPV vaccination as a requirement for school attendance.

Sincerely,



Matt Cole
Superintendent



Dave Woodruff
BOE President