

House Bill 53 - Public Health - Contraceptive Devices - Minors

Health and Government Operations Committee

March 13, 2020

What This Bill Does

- ▶ Prevents minors from having contraceptive devices implanted into their body's without written authorization of their parent or guardian

Why This Bill Is Needed

- ▶ All medical procedures, including Birth Control Implants, have associated risks and benefits.
- ▶ These risks and benefits need to be carefully weighed while considering each individual's medical history.
- ▶ It is too risky to allow minors alone to perform this cost/benefit analysis. They have not yet had the necessary mental development to make fully rational and informed medical decisions. The prefrontal cortex of our brains, which controls our judgement, isn't fully developed until our mid 20s.

Why This Bill Is Needed

- ▶ Those under the age of majority are also the legal responsibility of their parent or guardian. Parents can be held liable if something happens to their child and therefore have a right to be involved in their child's medical care.
- ▶ We are also placing school nurses, who are currently expected to give children who request it birth control implants, in a state of legal liability if there is a medical complication.
- ▶ The bottom line is, children should not be making major medical decisions on their own.

Why This Bill Is Needed

- ▶ According to the center for disease control, Baltimore has the Highest STD rate in the county. Is it really a good idea to give children contraceptive implants?
- ▶ This practice encourages sexual activity and the spread of disease.
- ▶ There are other contraceptive devices, such as condoms, that don't spread disease. We should be encouraging their use instead.

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/2019/2018-std-surveillance-report-press-release.html>

What Inspired This Bill

- ▶ Last Year in Baltimore, a Teen was given a birth control implant at school
- ▶ The procedure was done incorrectly
- ▶ As a result, the teen become very ill
- ▶ Because she was not aware the procedure was performed, the mother, Nicole Lambert, could not determine the cause of her daughters illness

Nicole Lambert In 2019:

- ▶ ““I instantly started crying because just to hear that your child, anything could happen to your child and you didn't even know what's going on, it's a scary feeling”
- ▶ "I actually went to the school. I was furious. I was mad, so I went to the school and the nurse told me, 'I don't have to talk to you about absolutely nothing.' I'm like that is my child, I take care of this child, you can talk to me about my child, and they put me out of the school,"

- ▶ <https://www.wmar2news.com/investigators/teen-given-birth-control-implant-at-school-without-parents-permission>

Ms. Lambert Was Scheduled to Testify In Favor Of HB 53 Today. Please Read Her Submitted Statement Of Support.

- ▶ “I do not understand why school officials call me for my permission to give my daughter Tylenol, but not performing an invasive medical procedure on my daughter - such as this implant. Ironically, my consent was required to remove the implant.”
- ▶ “Something is clearly very wrong here. School officials may not know a child’s full medical history. School officials may not have access to a child’s full medical history. School officials may not perform a complete, proper medical work-up for a child. School officials may not have proper training. School officials may not perform any follow-up with a child.”

Ms. Lambert Would Have Testified In Favor Of HB 53 Today If She Could Have. Please Read Her Submitted Statement Of Support.

- ▶ “School officials should not be performing invasive medical procedures on children without the knowledge and consent of their parents. Unlike my child’s pediatrician, I do not get a chance to select or screen my child’s healthcare providers at school.”
- ▶ “I believe this Bill is necessary to protect not only parental rights, but also the health and safety of our children. I kindly request members of the Health and Government Operations Committee to give House Bill 53 a favorable report.”

Please Give House Bill 53 A Favorable
Report

▶ Questions?