

*John O'Gorman*

Senator Richard Moore,  
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Dear Senator Moore,

I understand that you have recently introduced a bill that would require all 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls in Massachusetts to be vaccinated against the Human Pappiloma Virus (HPV). The CDC estimates that the vaccine would prevent approximately 70% of the deaths caused by cancer of the cervix. This would amount to preventing about 55 out of a total of 13,620 cancer deaths a year in Massachusetts. The state has no compelling public health interest in mandating a vaccine for a disease which is neither contagious nor widespread.

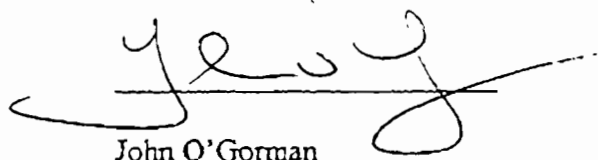
The vaccine to be used, Gardasil, has not been extensively tested in the general population, so that serious side effects, especially long-term, are not yet known. The Commonwealth could find itself with massive liability claims if serious side effects were to occur. Only parents, the primary caregivers, should decide whether their daughters should receive this vaccine.

There are 35,000 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls. The initial cost, at \$360 per three-part vaccine, would amount to \$12 million per year. Booster shots will cost more. Can the taxpayers afford this increase? If so, wouldn't this money be spent more effectively on some other aspect of healthcare, say anti-smoking?

There is a great danger that this vaccine will give another illusion of "safe-sex", leading to more underage girls having more sex. This will lead to more sexually transmitted diseases, including the incurable AIDS, and more teenage pregnancies and abortions. From a health standpoint, this would be one step forward and ten steps back. Please drop this bill. Many thanks.

c.c. Others

Yours Faithfully,

  
John O'Gorman