



CATHOLICS FOR THE COMMON GOOD

A NEW CATHOLIC ACTION

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June 13, 2011

RE: AB 499 (Atkins) Minors Medical Care: Consent

The Honorable Noreen Evans, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol, Room 2187
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Evans,

Catholics for the Common Good strongly opposes AB 499. It violates the right of parents to make consequential healthcare decisions for their children and can jeopardize the lives and health of children. We ask the committee member to vote against AB 499.

1. This bill violates of the rights of parents to fulfill their responsibilities for the health and welfare of their children.
2. Vaccines can have serious side effects including death and debilitating conditions. For instance, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has received reports that 51 girls and 2 boys have died after receiving Gardasil, one of the drugs covered by this bill.
3. Children are not equipped to stand up to the authority of adults, to do research, to ask questions, and to understand statistics about health risks that would enable them to make informed decisions.
4. This bill opens the door for adults from schools, Planned Parenthood or youth health centers with ulterior motives or profit incentives to coerce, scare or otherwise influence children into consenting to vaccines or treatments that they do not need. There are no protections against coercion built in the bill or even provisions for informing the children that the vaccine and treatments have resulted death, maiming and other wide ranging consequences for children who have received them in the past.
5. If parents are unaware that their children have received vaccines and medications, they cannot be vigilant for allergic reactions and side effects that require immediate treatment to prevent death or serious and permanent health consequences.
6. In addition to the serious health risks associated with vaccines and powerful medication, promoting a vaccine to children that is only necessary because of promiscuous sexual activity sends a very negative message to them that such activity is normative and ignores the other health, emotional, and moral consequences of such behavior.

We urge you vote no on AB 499.

Sincerely

William B. May

cc: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Toni Atkins, Author