



**ARLINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

CAO ● 144 Todd Hill Road ● LaGrangeville, NY 12540  
Voice : 845-486-4460

February 4, 2020

Governor Andrew Cuomo  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

The Arlington Central School District Board of Education opposes amendments to Section 2164 of the public health law, which adds immunizations against the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) to the list of vaccinations required to attend public school. There are corresponding bills in both the Senate and Assembly mandating the vaccine (S00298/A02912) and others allowing minor children to receive the vaccination without parental consent (S3899A/A973A) and (S4244B/A6564C), which the Board also opposes.

As you know, HPV is non-communicable in a school setting and, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is only spread through intimate sexual contact. The behaviors that spread HPV should not be occurring on school grounds. Therefore, HPV is not a public health risk in a school setting.

While we are not challenging that the vaccination may be helpful in preventing certain forms of cancer, the choice as to whether to have children vaccinated for HPV should be made only by the parents in consultation with their physician.

If these bills were to pass, our students could be denied access to public education if their parents decide that the risks outweigh the benefits of the immunization. Many families will turn to homeschooling, rather than have their children vaccinated for HPV. Additionally, this proposed unfunded mandate will create an unfair burden for school districts to ensure compliance and will likely lead to decreased enrollment in our schools.

Since HPV is not a public health risk in a school setting and because parents should have direct decisions over the healthcare of their children, we implore you to immediately withdraw these bills from consideration. If these bills pass, it will preclude many thousands of children from access to a public education across the state, and, could have devastating results on the future of New York.

Sincerely,

Peter Bodnar  
President, Board of Education

Cc: Senator Sue Serino  
Assemblyman Keran Michael Lalor  
Assemblywoman Didi Barrett  
Senator Gustavo Rivera, Chair, Senate Health Committee  
Senator Shelley B. Mayor, Chair, Senate Education Committee  
Assemblyman Richard N. Gottfried, Chair, Assembly Health Committee  
Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, Chair, Assembly Education Committee