

MEDIA RELEASE: RI Alliance for Vaccine Choice (RIAVC) and The Alliance to Remove HPV Vaccine Mandate call on the R.I. General Assembly to submit proposed HPV vaccine legislation

Posted by: [RI Alliance for Vaccine Choice](#)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rhode Island HPV Vaccine Mandate

The Alliance to Remove HPV Vaccine Mandate in Rhode Island is dedicated to protecting every Rhode Island resident's right to informed consent. Our group membership has swelled to over 2500 concerned citizens and, to date, more than 2900 supporters have signed an online petition to remove mandatory HPV vaccinations in R.I.

A patient, or the individual responsible for the patient's care, has a right to make an informed choice about treatment after a physician has accurately presented the medical facts. Informed consent is a basic policy in both ethics and law that physicians must generally honor.

In 2014, the Rhode Island Department of Health (DOH) made a decision to mandate additional vaccines, including the HPV vaccine (e.g. Gardasil, Gardasil 9, and Cervarix), for students entering seventh grade in both public and private schools. This mandate infringes upon our right to informed consent.

HPV is a sexually transmitted disease that is non-communicable by participation in normal school activities. At the time the new minimum immunization standards were adopted, there was little opportunity for parents and other engaged citizens to voice their opinions during public hearings. With this in mind, we propose legislation to accomplish the following:

- Restrict the authority of the DOH to set minimum immunization standards for diseases which are non-transmissible in a school environment.
- Remove the authority of the DOH to mandate HPV vaccination as a condition of school inclusion.
- Require the DOH director to hold three public hearings when changes to the minimum standards for immunizations are planned.

We also propose legislation to reinstate the philosophical exemption while also preserving the religious exemption to vaccinations. To view our complete HPV Legislator Packet please [Click Here](#).

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About the RI Alliance for Vaccine Choice

The RI Alliance for Vaccine Choice (RIAVC) is organized for the purpose of advocating for legislation that supports parental rights and informed consent. All individuals should be given full knowledge of possible risks and benefits relating to medical procedures and vaccines including the HPV vaccine. The RI Alliance for Vaccine Choice works with our state legislators and government officials to eliminate the HPV vaccine mandate. We assert that individuals have the right to make vaccination decisions after discussing their healthcare treatment with their physician.