



AB 659 – Cancer Prevention Act

SUMMARY

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the United States. There are multiple types of HPV that can lead to different health problems, including cervical and other types of cancers. The HPV vaccine is safe and is the most effective way to protect Californians from cervical cancer and provides substantial protection against throat, vaginal and other cancers.

This bill will ensure that Californians receive this cancer-preventing vaccine by notifying parents of 6th grade students of the expectation of HPV vaccination of students entering the 8th grade, and also extend the expectation for HPV vaccination of students 26 years of age or younger prior to enrollment in a California State University, University of California, and California Community College. Out of respect for the terrible impacts of the COVID pandemic on K12 and college students and institutions, the bill will not, however, require school districts and Higher Education institutions to confirm vaccination status for entry.

BACKGROUND

[According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) more than **37,300 new cancer diagnoses each year** can be attributed to prior HPV infection. These cancer cases affected both male and female patients. The CDC also reports that teen girls are the most likely to contract the infection and show symptoms, with about 75 to 89 percent of people in the United States contracting one or more types of HPV throughout the course of their lives.

The HPV vaccine prevents cancer and saves lives. It protects against up to nine variants of the virus and is expected to prevent [more than 90 percent cervical cancer cases](#). It is also 70 percent effective in protecting girls, teens and women ages 9 to 26 [from vaginal cancers](#) and 50 percent effective in protecting against vulvar cancer cases. This highly effective preventative healthcare should be

administered to all students to prevent the spread of HPV and protect Californians from cancer.

PROBLEM

Despite the fact that HPV vaccination has been available for over 20 years, vaccine uptake continues to lag far behind other vaccines. The CDC recommends HPV vaccination for girls and boys ages 11 to 12 and is widely available through practitioners such as pediatricians and family doctors. However, the CDC reports that over 60% of eligible adolescents have not received the HPV vaccine.

If CDC recommendations were followed, the HPV vaccine could prevent over 37,000 cases of cancer each year. We must continue to protect the future of our youth by providing them with all the preventative healthcare available.

THIS BILL

AB 659 would declare that students are required to be fully immunized against HPV before admission or advancement to the 8th grade level of any private or public elementary or secondary school and their parent or guardians will receive a notification of the requirement when they enter the 6th grade. K-12 School Districts will not, however, be required to check vaccination status for admission into grades 8-12.

This bill will also require first-time enrollees who are 26 years of age or younger to be fully immunized against HPV prior to enrollment in a California State University, University of California, and California Community College. These institutions will not be required to check vaccination status for admission.

By requiring vaccination, this bill will help notify and educate Californians at these vital ages when receiving the vaccine is most effective. Doing so will prevent the spread of HPV and give more Californians protection from cancers and other HPV-induced diseases.

This bill also will guarantee that the HPV vaccine is completely covered, regardless of health insurance status, by expanding coverage requirements for the HPV vaccine and expanding comprehensive clinical family planning services under the Family PACT Waiver Program to include the HPV vaccine for FDA approved patients.

SUPPORT

AIDS Healthcare Foundation
American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists,
District IX
California Health+ Advocates
California STD/HIV Controllers Association
California Medical Association
Equal Rights Advocates
Essential Access Health
Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern
California
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California

CONTACT

Alexa Chavez | Legislative Assistant
(916) 319-2004