



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 a recommendation that students entering the 8th grade receive the HPV vaccine, and also extend the recommendation of HPV vaccination to 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 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 recommended 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 recommendation as part of the existing notifications from school districts, when they enter the 6th grade. K-12 School Districts will not be required to check vaccination status for admission into grades 8-12.

This bill will also recommend that 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 recommending 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 also remove cost barriers by expanding coverage requirements for the HPV vaccine.

SUPPORT

- AIDS Healthcare Foundation
- American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists, District IX
- California Academy of Family Physicians
- California Dental Association
- California Health+ Advocates
- California Medical Association
- California Pan – Ethnic Health Network
- California State Council of Service Employees International Union (SEIU California)
- California STD/HIV Controllers Association
- COLOR Health, Inc.
- County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC)
- Health
- Equal Rights Advocates
- Essential Access Health
- Health Officers Association of California
- NARAL Pro-Choice California
- Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
- Teens For Vaccines INC.

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