

Dear Committee Members,

Please do not support SB41. As a Marylander and a parent, I vehemently oppose any bill that removes parents from ANY medical decisions for minors. Having a very good relationship with my pediatrician, I know that children and young teens do not have the capacity to make, potentially, life-altering decisions and proceed down a path without knowing and understanding their full medical history. Via many conversations she has indicated that, many times, children and young teens have no idea why they are even in her office.

As parents, we are personally and financially responsible for vetting and seeking out appropriate professionals to attend to any issues our children and young teens have. I have spent many hours doing this, whether it was a sensitivity to a particular piece of clothing or a dental cleaning appointment. They are my children, whom I know very well and with whom I spend much time. They come to me asking for help and I provide my assistance – this is how a parental relationship should work. To assume otherwise, as this bill does, clearly is a testament to a declining parental relationship, which should be addressed on a case by case basis and not through a piece of legislation.

Additionally, as a nutrition professional, there are many concerns with prescribing any type of treatment to minors. Not only does this effect behavior, but alters microbiome communities and may cause nutritional depletion (i.e. folic acid and melatonin). Not being involved in these decisions, parents would have no idea if side effects did occur and how they would impact their child or young teen down the road.

As a society, we have also decided that you must be 16 to drive, 18 to vote and 21 to drink. These are major milestones we allow young adults to achieve (with parental assistance), yet you are proposing a bill that will allow minors to consent to treatment with a pharmaceutical drug (with any of them having multiple side effects). It does not make sense.

Therefore, I urge you to oppose this bill.

Thank you,
Margaret Stoklosa
Gaithersburg, MD
Gosia2200@yahoo.com