

Subject: Tax Dollars Used To Market Controversial HPV Vaccine Mandate

PRESS RELEASE for Immediate Release

JULY 5, 2016

Rhode Islanders against mandated HPV vaccinations (#NOHPVmandateRI) calls out the RI Dept, of Health

Recently, the RI Dept. of Health began robo-calls to households of children entering the seventh and eighth grade urging students to get vaccinations. This call outlines that HPV (human papillomavirus) is a dangerous disease. It never mentions that most cases of HPV are asymptomatic and that 90% of all cases clear themselves within two years. It does not inform that there are religious exemptions available for vaccinations in Rhode Island. **Rhode Islanders against mandated HPV vaccinations (#NOHPVmandateRI)**

The Dept. of Health doubled their efforts with postcards. Each one was sent in the name of the student and was marketing vaccinations. Direct health decision information mailed and marketed to minors. When did it become appropriate to bypass the parent for a medical procedure? Why is proper informed consent not being utilized? Why is there no mention of the religious or medical exemptions?

In 2014, the same year the vaccine was mandated, the RI Dept. of Health received a grant for the HPV vaccination of over \$638,000. The grant money line item breakdown shows that none of the money is to purchase the vaccine or to subsidize the vaccine cost. The grant for over a half million dollars is to market one specific vaccination. Federal grant money, our tax dollars, was awarded in this large sum to the smallest state in the nation. So far none of their efforts have included risks vs benefits, which is essential to any medical procedure, or that Rhode Island has exemptions for parents. They have not yet returned a phone call from a group member, to determine if the grant was part of the National Vaccine Advisory Committee test market campaign of 2014.

“This marketing to minors is completely inappropriate,” says Aimee Gardiner, Director of (#NOHPVmandateRI.) “I do not feel it is a good use of tax dollars, to increase a push on vaccination especially for a vaccine this state already shows a high rate of students have received. It is concerning that a Dept that is supposed to be dedicated to Health and well-being does not respect informed consent, and then crosses into marketing at minors.”

Rhode Islanders against mandated HPV vaccinations strongly encourages anyone not fully comfortable with receiving the HPV vaccination to file a religious exemption form. The RI HPV Info pack has the exemption form included, it is located at www.RIHPVinfo.nohpvmandateri.com

Media Contact

Aimee Gardiner, Director

Rhode Islanders against mandated HPV vaccinations

admin@nohpvmandateri.com ~ 4014062647