

The Legislation

S.278 + H.3204 Cervical Cancer Prevention Act

Overview of the bills:

The Cervical Cancer Prevention Act requires the State Department of Health and Environmental Control to 1) offer the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination to students enrolling in the seventh grade; and 2) provide parents and guardians with printed information on HPV vaccination.

The Problem:

Cervical Cancer is a Critical Public Health issue in South Carolina.

- Every month, an average of 5 women die of cervical cancer in South Carolina.
- In 2010, South Carolina ranked 14th in cervical cancer incidence and 7th in cervical cancer deaths.
- In SC, cervical cancer is diagnosed at a higher rate in African-American women than in white women, and cervical cancer mortality rates are also higher in African-American women than white women.
- Half of South Carolina females age 13-17 years have still not received all HPV vaccine doses to help with the prevention of cervical cancer.
- Eight out of 10 South Carolina males age 13-17 have not received the vaccine to protect them from some male cancers.

The Solution:

The Act will help parents and guardians make informed decisions which will result in increased awareness about the vaccine and its ability to prevent cancer.

The Vaccine:

- Protects against types of HPV that cause approximately 75 percent of cervical cancer cases.
- Protects against types of HPV that cause 70 percent of vaginal cancer cases.
- Protects against types of HPV that cause up to 50 percent of vulvar cancer cases.
- Would not be mandated by this bill.

What You Can Do

- Visit www.tellthemsc.org and sign up for updates on this and other pieces of legislation that threatens your healthcare
- Send an email to your legislators telling them that you support S.278 and H.3204.
- Get others involved. Share this information with your friends and get your community to make their voices heard.
- Keep up-to-date with all the legislative issues that deal with reproductive health by following *Tell Them* on Facebook, and Twitter.