



Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District

106 Washington Avenue
Plainview, New York 11803
www.pobschools.org

Board of Education

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January 2, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
Capital Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

Currently there is an amendment to Section 2164 of the Public Health Law that has been presented in the New York State Senate and the New York State Assembly. This proposed amendment would require immunization against the human papillomavirus (HPV) for students to attend public school.

While changes in the health law are often necessary in order to protect the public at large against crises or to mitigate exposure to a communicable disease in open spaces, the Plainview-Old Bethpage CSD Board of Education is opposed to adding the HPV vaccine to the required vaccination program for the following reason. HPV is not contracted in a manner likely to occur in the appropriate and normal course of conduct in a public-school setting and does not have a short incubation period similar to other viruses/diseases for which immunizations are mandated. Parents should be provided with information and be allowed to make an informed decision regarding whether or not to have their children vaccinated against HPV, rather than being mandated to do so.

If this bill were to pass, our students could be denied access to public education if their parents decide the risks outweigh any benefit to immunization. We consider this amendment an overreach by the government, an infringement on parental rights, and an unfair burden for school districts to ensure compliance.

The Plainview-Old Bethpage Board of Education strongly urge you to vote against the bill.

Sincerely,

Debbie Bernstein
President

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