

HB 1719: Relative to Immunization Requirements
House Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs
March 8, 2025

Chair MacDonald and Members of the House Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs
Committee

As a thirty plus year registered nurse, a parent and grandparent, I write in opposition to HB 1719 re: removing Hepatitis B from the list of diseases for which immunization is required under state law. Several effects of the bill are troubling:

1. Hepatitis B is the leading cause of liver cancer and liver disease in the US
2. Perinatal transmission is thought to be the major route by which Hepatitis B Virus is transmitted (*Hepatology, 2009*). Maternal testing can be effective but may be incomplete, and infants may be exposed to Hepatitis B through contact with other family members, who may have not been tested.
3. Infection acquired in children usually leads to chronic life-long infection without apparent acute infection. In contrast, infection acquired in adults frequently results in symptomatic acute hepatitis and may be treatable.
4. Eliminating Hepatitis B vaccine from entry to school requirements would place children at unnecessary risk.
5. Hepatitis B is sometimes thought of as a “lifestyle” disease, which is an erroneously narrow view of modes of transmission.
6. Hepatitis B is HIGHLY contagious and can live in a small drop of blood on a surface (towel, door knob etc.) for seven days or longer.
7. ***Hepatitis B vaccine is safe, highly effective and has resulted in dramatic reductions in rates of Hepatitis B infection and liver cancer for decades.***

Please use common sense in opposing HB 1719 in the interest of NH’s children and all with whom they spend time.

Thank you for your work and for considering my comments.

Hon. Polly Campion, MS, RN