



# William Floyd Union Free School District

of the MASTICS – MORICHES – SHIRLEY

*Our rich history builds a promising future!*

Kevin M. Coster  
*Superintendent of Schools*

December 12, 2019

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

Dear Governor Cuomo & Members of the NYS Senate and Assembly:

At our December 10, 2019, meeting, the William Floyd Board of Education adopted a sense resolution opposing amendments to Section 2164 of the public health law, which adds immunizations against the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) to the list of vaccinations required to attend public school. There are corresponding bills in both the Senate and Assembly mandating the vaccine (S00298/A02912) and others allowing minor children to receive the vaccination without parental consent (S3899A/A973A) and (S4244B/A6564C), which we are also expressing our opposition to.

As you know, HPV is non-communicable in a school setting and, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is only spread through intimate sexual contact; the behaviors that spread HPV are not and should not be occurring on school grounds. Therefore, HPV is not a public health risk in a school setting.

While we are not challenging that the vaccination may be helpful in preventing certain forms of cancer, the choice as to whether to have children vaccinated for HPV should be made only by the parents in consultation with their physician. It is a personal and moral choice and should remain one for parents only, as they are in the best position to make healthcare decisions regarding their children.

We feel this proposed unfunded mandate is unnecessary and will have a devastating impact on school districts throughout the state with many families turning to homeschooling and some leaving the state altogether. We have heard from many of our residents, who have made it clear in no uncertain terms, that they will not tolerate this and will homeschool or move to a state that is less restrictive when it comes to parental healthcare decision-making. This government overreach into parental choices regarding healthcare takes away parents' decisions to choose what is best for them personally, and, deprives children of a public education by virtue of a good-faith parental opposition to this vaccination.

Since HPV is not a public health risk in a school setting and because parents should have direct decisions over the healthcare of their children, we implore you to immediately withdraw these bills

from consideration. If these bills pass, it will preclude many thousands of children from access to a public education across the state, and, could have devastating results on the future of New York.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Vecchio  
President, Board of Education

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cc: The Honorable Andrew Cuomo, Governor, State of New York  
The Honorable Kenneth P. LaValle, Senator, 1st District  
The Honorable John J. Flanagan, Senator, 2nd District  
The Honorable Monica Martinez, Senator, 3rd District  
The Honorable Phil Boyle, Senator, 4th District  
The Honorable James Gaughran, Senator, 5th District  
The Honorable Kevin Thomas, Senator, 6th District  
The Honorable Anna M. Kaplan, Senator, 7th District  
The Honorable John E. Brooks, Senator, 8th District  
The Honorable Todd Kaminsky, Senator, 9th District  
The Honorable James Sanders Jr., Senator, 10th District  
The Honorable Toby Ann Stavisky, Senator, 16th District  
The Honorable Zellnor Myrie, Senator, 20th District  
The Honorable Kevin S. Parker, Senator, 21st District  
The Honorable Brad Hoylman, Senator, 27th District  
The Honorable Liz Kreuger, Senator, 28th District  
The Honorable Jose M. Serrano, Senator, 29th District  
The Honorable Luis R. Sepulveda, Senator, 32nd District  
The Honorable Gustavo Rivera, Senator, 33rd District, Chair, Health Committee  
The Honorable Alessandra Biaggi, Senator, 34th District  
The Honorable Jamaal T. Bailey, Senator, 36th District  
The Honorable Shelley B. Mayer, Senator, 37th District, Chair, Education Committee  
The Honorable Fred W. Thiele Jr., Member of Assembly, District 1  
The Honorable Anthony Palumbo, Member of Assembly, District 2  
The Honorable Joe DeStefano, Member of Assembly, District 3  
The Honorable Steven Englebright, Member of Assembly, District 4  
The Honorable Doug Smith, Member of Assembly, District 5  
The Honorable Philip R. Ramos, Member of Assembly, District 6  
The Honorable Andrew R. Garbarino, Member of Assembly, District 7  
The Honorable Michael J. Fitzpatrick, Member of Assembly, District 8  
The Honorable Michael LiPetri, Member of Assembly, District 9  
The Honorable Steve Stern, Member of Assembly, District 10  
The Honorable Kimberly Jean-Pierre, Member of Assembly, District 11  
The Honorable Andrew P. Raia, Member of Assembly, District 12  
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The Honorable Inez E. Dickens, Member of Assembly, District 70  
The Honorable Harvey Epstein, Member of Assembly, District 74  
The Hon. Richard N. Gottfried, Member of Assembly, District 75, Chair, Assembly Health Committee  
The Honorable Jeffrey Dinowitz, Member of Assembly, District 81  
The Hon. Michael Benedetto, Member of Assembly, District 82, Chair, Assembly Education Committee  
The Honorable Amy Paulin, Member of Assembly, District 88  
The Honorable Ellen C. Jaffee, Member of Assembly, District 97  
The Honorable Aileen M. Gunther, Member of Assembly, District 100  
The Honorable John T. McDonald III, Member of Assembly, District 108  
The Honorable Patricia Fahy, Member of Assembly, District 109  
The Honorable Barbara Lifton, Member of Assembly, District 125  
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The Honorable Patrick Burke, Member of Assembly, District 142  
The Honorable Monica P. Wallace, Member of Assembly, District 143



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