



**County  
Health Officials  
of New York**  
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# SUPPORTS

**A3192.S3041 (Fahy/Krueger)**

**AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to the administration of vaccines to children who are at least fourteen years of age**

The New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) supports the above-referenced legislation, which proposes to allow the administration of vaccines to children who are at least fourteen years of age without parental consent.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that adolescents (ages 13-18 years) receive vaccinations against several communicable diseases, including those caused by human papillomaviruses and hepatitis viruses.<sup>1</sup> The diseases caused by those viruses have the potential to greatly harm the health of adolescents, including with complications that persist into adulthood. Despite the serious risks posed by these diseases, children still do not receive vaccinations recommended or required by the state. In New York State, only 55.7% of all adolescents have completed the HPV vaccine series, and completion of this vaccine series is likely considerably lower in rural, upstate communities compared to urban, downstate ones.<sup>2</sup>

This proposal could help greatly improve the health of adolescents by expanding their access to vaccinations. Currently, minors in New York State cannot receive vaccinations without parental approval. The language in the bill is also consistent with recommendations from the medical community. The Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine supports opportunities for minors to give informed consent for vaccinations when parents are not physically present.<sup>3</sup>

NYSACHO supports A3192.S3014 to reduce barriers to vaccination for adolescents. Increased uptake for vaccinations among this population would reduce the spread of communicable disease and prevent short and long-term health consequences for adolescents.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/easy-to-read/adolescent-easyread.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nyshpv.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/NEW-YORK-STATE-HPV-VACCINATION-ACTION-PLAN-3.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.adolescenthealth.org/SAHM\\_Main/media/Advocacy/Positions/Oct-13-Consent-Vaccination.pdf](https://www.adolescenthealth.org/SAHM_Main/media/Advocacy/Positions/Oct-13-Consent-Vaccination.pdf)