

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 07-0247R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Holton, Young, Kraft, Branch, Curran, Welch, Reisinger,
Clarke, Mitchell, Spector, President Rawlings Blake

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2007

Assigned to: Education, Housing, Health, and Human Services Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Health Department, Baltimore City Public School
System

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Celebrating Cervical Health Awareness Month, January 2007 –**
3 **In Support of State Legislation – Senate Bill 54 - Health - General**
4 **- Vaccine for Prevention of Cervical Cancer**

5 FOR the purpose of celebrating Cervical Health Awareness Month by expressing support for
6 Senate Bill 54 that requires, by September 2008, that all female children enrolled in the 6th
7 grade be vaccinated against the virus that causes cervical cancer, urging the Honorable Chair
8 and Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee to give
9 the bill a favorable report, asking the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City
10 Senate and House Delegations to the Maryland General Assembly to support passage of the
11 measure, and entreating the Governor to sign the bill into law.

12 **Recitals**

13 Statistics from the Baltimore City Health Department show that cancer is the second leading
14 cause of death in Maryland, after heart disease. It is responsible for 24% of all deaths.
15 Baltimore City has the State's highest overall cancer mortality rates, with the most common
16 cancers being breast, oral, colon, and cervical.

17 The American Cancer Society estimates that approximately 10,000 women in the United
18 States are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year; of these, 3,700 will die within the year. In
19 Baltimore City, the death rate from cancer of the cervix exceeds that national rate, according to
20 statistics compiled by the National Cancer Institute.

21 Cervical cancer has been strongly associated with Human Papilloma Virus or HPV. There
22 are many types of HPV. Some cause cervical cell abnormality, and some cause genital warts.
23 Other types of this virus cause no harm. Over 80% of the population carries some form of HPV,
24 but most people do not know that they have it because HPV often has no signs or symptoms.

25 While half of all women diagnosed with cervical cancer are between the ages of 35 and 55,
26 many were probably exposed to a "high-risk" form of HPV in their teens and 20s. For most
27 women, the body's own defense system will clear the virus, and those infected women will not
28 develop related health problems; however, some HPV types can cause abnormal cells on the
29 lining of the cervix that years later can become cancerous.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

Council Bill 07-0247R

1 On June 8, 2006, the U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced the approval of
2 Gardasil, the first vaccine developed to prevent cervical cancer, precancerous genital lesions, and
3 genital warts due to HPV virus types 6, 11, 16, and 18. The vaccine is approved for use in
4 females 9-26 years of age.

5 4 studies, 1 in the United States and 3 multinational, showed that the vaccine was nearly
6 100% effective in preventing precancerous cervical lesions, precancerous vaginal and vulvar
7 lesions, and genital warts caused by infection with the HPV types against which the vaccine is
8 directed in women between the ages of 16 and 26 who had not already been infected.

9 While the study period was not long enough for cervical cancer to develop, the prevention of
10 the cervical precancerous lesions is believed highly likely to result in the prevention of those
11 cancers. The studies also evaluated whether the vaccine can protect women already infected
12 with some HPV types included in the vaccine from developing diseases related to those viruses.
13 The results show that the vaccine is only effective when given prior to infection.

14 Requiring vaccination in the early years to ward against a disease that could develop in later
15 years and have devastating effects on the long term health and happiness of our young women
16 and their loved ones seems a prudent step to take. Because of the cancer risks inherent in living
17 in Baltimore City, it is essential that our representatives support all measures that might serve to
18 ameliorate this situation.

19 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
20 Body celebrates Cervical Health Awareness Month by expressing support for Senate Bill 54 that
21 requires, by September 2008, that all female children enrolled in the 6th grade be vaccinated
22 against the virus that causes cervical cancer, urges the Honorable Chair and Members of the
23 Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee to give the bill a favorable
24 report, asks the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City Senate and House
25 Delegations to the Maryland General Assembly to support passage of the measure, and entreats
26 the Governor to sign the bill into law.

27 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Honorable Chair of the Senate Education, Health,
28 and Environmental Affairs Committee is respectfully requested to include this letter of support
29 as part of the Committee record of written testimony.

30 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the
31 Mayor, the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations
32 to the Maryland General Assembly, the Honorable Chair of the Senate Education, Health, and
33 Environmental Affairs Committee, the Honorable Dolores G. Kelley, the Baltimore City Health
34 Commissioner, the Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of State Relations, and the Mayor's
35 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.