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Ontario

Sessional Paper No. P-122

P-122 Petition relating to Immunization of School Pupils Act (Sessional Paper No. 122) (Tabled by MPP Yurek, December 6, 2016)

P-122 Petition relating to Immunization of School Pupils Act (Sessional Paper No. 122) (Tabled by MPP Dong, December 7, 2016)

Response:

The proposed amendment to the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA), as outlined in Schedule 1 of Bill 87, would require, if passed, parents to complete an education session before submitting a non-medical vaccine exemption. The intention of the proposed amendment is to support parents in making an informed decision for their children's health care.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (ministry) is developing the session content and mechanisms to reduce operational and/or financial burdens placed on public health units to deliver the education session.

The provision of an immunization education session does not constitute treatment under the Health Care Consent Act, 1996.

If Bill 87 is passed, parents may still file a non-medical vaccine exemption for their children after completing an education session.

While vaccines do have some risks, these risks are extremely small. Most vaccine side effects are mild and temporary. Serious side effects are extremely rare. The risk of a serious allergic reaction to a vaccine is about one in a million. The risks from diseases that vaccines prevent, however, are much greater. Before the administration of any vaccine, the patient's medical history should be reviewed with his/her health care provider to ascertain the risk and the benefits of receiving the vaccine to ensure the patient is making an informed decision regarding his/her health and/or dependents.

Health Canada's Biologics and Genetic Therapies Directorate (BGTD) is the regulatory authority accountable for determining the safety, efficacy and quality of all vaccines distributed in Canada. Vaccine submissions to BGTD are examined for clinical and chemistry/manufacturing information and on-site inspections of manufacturing facilities and laboratory evaluations of vaccines are conducted by BGTD. Vaccine approval is granted by BGTD, only if the vaccine meets all safety, efficacy and quality requirements established in Canada.

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In Canada, vaccine manufacturers are legally obligated to collect and report data on adverse events. In Ontario, health care providers are required to report potential vaccine adverse reactions to their local medical officer of health in accordance with requirements under the Health Protection and Promotion Act. This information is monitored and reviewed on an ongoing basis by Public Health Ontario and reported to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to support national vaccine safety surveillance. Anyone who experiences a suspected adverse event following immunization should report this information to their local public health unit. A list of public health units in Ontario is available at www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/system/services/phu/locations.aspx

Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins