



# Booth v. Bowser (D.D.C.)

Topics Covered: COVID-19, Public Health

## Issue

The issue in this case is whether a D.C. law permitting young people eleven years of age or older to receive a vaccine without their parents' consent or knowledge is lawful.

## AMA Interest

The AMA supports state policies allowing minors to override their parent's refusal for vaccinations. Further, it encourages state legislatures to establish comprehensive vaccine and minor consent policies.

## Case Summary

In October 2020, the D.C. Council passed the Minor Consent for Vaccinations Amendment Act of 2020, which grants children the right to receive certain vaccines, such as those for HPV and meningitis, without requiring health care officials to inform parents and legal guardians, so long as medical professionals deem the minor is capable of informed consent.

On July 12, 2021, four parents sued D.C. Mayor Bowser, the D.C. Department of Health, and D.C. Public Schools alleging that the law violates their constitutional rights as parents by allowing children to act against their religious upbringing if they choose to be vaccinated.

## Litigation Center Involvement

The Litigation Center and Medical Society of the District of Columbia joined the American Academy of Pediatrics and others in an *amicus* brief supporting the D.C. law.

United States District Court for the District of Columbia Brief