**Tanner Day**

**Biology 1090, Human Biology**

**Taking Sides readings**

**Issue Number: 11**

**Title of Issue: Should Vaccination for HPV Be Mandated for Teenage Girls?**

Joseph E. Balog, author of the *Moral Justification for a Compulsory Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Program*, describes the necessity for a HPV vaccination by relating the seriousness of the disease to that of polio in the 1950’s. Gail Javitt, Deena Berkowitz, and Lawrence O. Gostin, writers of *Assessing Mandatory HPV Vaccination: Who Should Call the Shots?* have made it clear that the long-term safety and effectiveness of the HPV preventing vaccine is unknown.

Authors who write affirming the side of disagreeing with establishing a vaccination for HPV question the backlash the government will receive after mandating because of the lack of historical justification with vaccinations. This thought can be viewed as a fallacy because the government has discussed and followed through with the distribution of vaccines for various different diseases in the past, whether they are major or minor. Also, someone could easily state that the government will receive backlash after establishing and enforcing any kind of prudent law.

Joseph E. Balog provides some interesting facts regarding the elimination of poliomyelitis: In 1952, more than 58,000 cases of polio were reported. The salk vaccine was introduced and an overall 60% to 70% prevention rate was achieved. On the contrary, the opposing side states that in a recent poll 61% of parents with daughters under the age of 18 prefer vaccination. However, only 45% agreed that the vaccine should be included as part of the vaccination routine for all children and adolescents. The same writers explain the correlation between Boston being the first city to require children in public schools to provide evidence of vaccination and the backlash on the government from society.

I feel as though the authors of *Assessing Mandatory HPV Vaccination: Who Should Call the Shots?* were most empirical in developing their thesis because their presentation eliminated my bias opinion entering this topic and persuaded me to think that the HPV vaccine should not be a requirement for teenage girls. I have no reason to believe that any of these writers had any form of a bias opinion before or after conducting their research. There are two different sides with valid opinions and facts. After reading both articles, my stance is that a HPV vaccination is a useful practice but should not be required throughout the public. There are just too many individual conflicts throughout our society of teenage girls to require such a widespread vaccine.