

Aillery SB374

To Whom It May Concern,

How many ways can you people think up to invade our privacy and undermine our Constitutional rights, to say nothing of spending money this state does not have?

There are already assessments going on in Connecticut schools, so I was told by the head social worker at Westhill High School a month or so ago at an interfaith meeting in Stamford. The State DOES NOT have a right to impose its standard of mental health on the people. So, what?, if you don't think someone's child is healthy mentally, you can pull that kid from the home? You can require that family to undergo extensive, expensive treatments? You can stick him in some institution? Who gets to pay for that? The taxpayers?

Bill 374 requires these mental health evaluations without any indication of need. I have a friend who trained to be a substitute teacher in Darien. You know what they taught her? It wasn't how to teach or even how to handle unruly kids. They taught her to not use certain words that would flag parents to request extensive testing to see if that child had some condition that would require special services. Why? Because our school systems DO NOT HAVE THE MONEY FOR SPECIAL SERVICES. I have a few friends in the Stamford school system who also had to push and push and push to get their child appropriately tested for special needs. The schools do not have the resources for this, which means the money appropriated for education is not sufficient for what you are proposing.

The State was forced to borrow money from the federal government to cover unemployment costs a few years ago. I know, because the small business my husband owns has now, two years running, received a bill to pay for the interest we now owe from that "loan." What a scam! And you want to spend money we don't have to weed out a rare instance of mental health that requires intervention that should be detected by a parent or teacher? My husband's company pays thousands a year in unemployment, and you still needed to borrow money from the federal government which we now have to pay back with interest.

Do you not see the irony here? You're either a bunch of remedial financial morons, or worse, you are conniving, plotting socialists who want to chip away at this great country's freedoms, which require individual responsibility to oversee one's own condition. You want to improve children's mental health, encourage and strengthen traditional families. Educate parents to see the warning signs in their kids, and LET THE PARENTS make the appropriate judgment call. This is not a state issue.

I have home schooled five children. I accept the evaluation of family and friends who tell me I have the best kids around. I do NOT need you, nor want you, in my home.

Sincerely,

Mary Aillery
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