

To the Public Health Committee,

I vehemently oppose S.B. 374 requiring mental health screenings for 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Graders. This is an unnecessary government intrusion into family life. As a parent I alone am responsible for the health and well-being of my family. There should be enough reporting measures currently in place that if a teacher or administrator feels there is an individual problem with a child at a school they can recommend that child gets help. Why should all families and children be subject to this type of intrusion? This bill is far too lacking in details, who administers the exam, who pays for the exam to be administered, will parents be allowed to be present and listen to the screening, what happens after the screening especially if there are suspected issues. I will not allow my child to be subjected to this screening process. If this measure is adopted (which I sincerely hope is not the case) there should be a choice for parents to opt their child out of this process. It is the state's job to teach our children it is a parent's responsibility to make sure their child arrives healthy and ready to learn.

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