

Chris Bosnyak gives testimony. March 8, 2013
Proposed Bill No. 374.
An Act Requiring Behavioral Health Assessments for Children.

Thank you for this opportunity to stand and give my testimony regarding proposed bill no. 374.
This is my testimony:

I absolutely oppose this bill.

The state has no authority, nor has it demonstrated that it has such authority, to amend section 10-206 to **REQUIRE** each pupil to submit to a behavioral health assessment against the direct consent of the child's parent or guardian. If it is the intent of the state to gather information on each pupil to create a record by which they can determine if the child is conforming to what the state has determined is healthy behavior...then let the state proceed, like so many other private organizations, and request on a volunteer basis, the permission of parents who would like their children to participate in such a study and assessment. However to make it law to REQUIRE such assessment against the will of the parents is morally wrong.

The bill says **RESULTS** shall be disclosed. But what good are Results if they are not acted upon. It is most certain that the state wants to ACT on the RESULTS gathered. Otherwise such activity is a dead end exercise. But what ACTIONS shall be taken? We are not told. This bill swings the door wide open into a room of unanswered questions and unnamed activities.

The statement of purpose is problematic. It says "To provide behavioral health assessments to children." The first problem is one of intent. The word "**provide**" suggests something different than the word "**Required**" as found in the first line of the bill. Secondly, the assessment is performed **ON** children, not **TO** children. There is a softening of language here to make this whole bill more digestible...but I cannot swallow it.

As to unanswered questions:

What specific tests will be done? It is not revealed.

What specific information will be gathered? It is not revealed.

What specific ACTION will be taken on the information gathered? It is not revealed.

What are the specific BENEFITS to be achieved? They are not revealed.

What behavioral problems does the state perceive or conceive finding in my child that drives the state to require an assessment against and without my permission and approval?

What punishments will be placed upon parents who don't obey this bill should it become law? It is not disclosed.

If the States intention is to help children, they need to respect the parents, guardians and the family unit. Proposed bill no. 374 DOES NOT.

Thank you.

Chris Bosnyak.