

Colandrea SB374

Dear Committee,

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 374. This bill contains poorly defined requirements that violate parents' rights. Some of the questions not answered by this bill are:

1. What basis is there to show a need to perform these tests on public and homeschool children? These tests are comprehensive and invasive.
2. Who will be administering these tests? There are not enough qualified professionals available to take care of the families who want care, where will you find and who will fund these professionals?
3. Who will be keeping the results of these tests? Saying that only the parents will get the results does not assure us that the state will not be keeping a record of the results.
4. Who will pay for these tests? Governor Malloy intends to cut \$1.8 Billion from the budget, so how could this be funded? Don't pass laws that cannot be funded.
5. If my child is tested and I want a second opinion, since these tests are highly subjective, who will pay for it? My insurance? Myself?
6. What are the consequences if I choose not to have my child tested?
7. What services will you offer me if my child is found to need them? Can you guarantee my family services when so many families are begging for help and are not receiving services?
8. How much would such a law cost if every child needs to be tested? As I understand it, there are over 800,000 elementary school-aged children in CT today. Where will you find the money to pay for the qualified personnel required to administer such tests?

There are already many child welfare laws on the books. Please take the time to go through the laws already in place. Focus should be on how to provide treatment for families who are actively seeking it. For the few parents who would not seek help, there are already DCF and neglect laws already in place - the juvenile courts use them every day.

Thank you,
Janice Colandrea
Meriden, CT