

Colasanto SB374

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I am writing to express my disapproval of the proposed Bill No 374 for many reasons. I am the mother of eight children, four biological and four adopted. I have had to make the decision to seek Behavioral Health Assessments for a few of my children. The decision was made first with my husband. I then sought the advice of my chosen pediatrician. Only then, would I request a meeting with the school to arrange for the testing. I even had to arrange for private counseling and testing for various reasons. I do not think that anyone other than the parents have the right to seek a Behavioral Health Assessment for their children. The fact that the government wants to do these assessments without the approval of the parents is nothing more than absurd. I also do not agree with the fact that the government would have the right to decide who should be tested and who should do the testing. I take a very active role in my children's welfare and have advocated for them during primary and secondary school.

Although I appreciate the special accommodation the public school has made on behalf of my children, I believe the initiation of assessments and plans belongs to the parents. Thank you for the opportunity to share my beliefs with you.

Sincerely,

Darlene Colasanto