

To the Public Health Committee,

We have become aware of proposed legislation 374, which if adopted would require homeschooled children ages 12, 14, and 17 to have "behavioral health assessments."

As a homeschooling family, we feel that such an assessment would constitute an unwarranted, gross invasion of our family privacy.

Our daughter and I had studied some of our rights under the 4th Amendment. Here is the portion on illegal search and seizure: "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

It seems quite obvious to us that this proposed legislation IS a violation of our 4th amendment rights, amounting to an illegal search via a forced medical evaluation of our children without probable cause. If state officials cannot enter our homes to look for illegal substances without testimony supported by oath or affirmation, then they should not be allowed to force us to give our children over to such behavioral health assessments either.

However, this is a parental rights issue, not just a homeschool issue, as it will affect all children in our state. Parents know their children best and they are the ones who should initiate the seeking of treatment for children who exhibit mental health problems. Assessment is not the issue. Better access to appropriate treatment is the issue. This bill will not accomplish the goal of helping children with mental health needs, and it may create worse unintended consequences.

For all of these reasons, we respectfully request that you would please vote against Proposed Bill 374.

Thank-you,
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