

Lynch SB374

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee,

As a result of reading SB374, I am left with only questions, many questions. While mental health undoubtedly needs to be addressed, this bill is clearly not the answer.

As a former public school educator for many years, I have had the opportunity to teach students from the elementary through college level. I earned a 6th year degree as a Reading/Language Arts Consultant, and later in my career, conducted staff development training and consulting services. Consequently, I am well aware of the insurmountable constraints placed on the fine educators in our great state.

- How will such a bill, if it becomes law, realistically be implemented?
- How will such assessments be integrated within the already cumbersome and perhaps excessive evaluations conducted? And who will be conducting such assessments? Are the appropriately trained personnel available?
- Why are we not discussing the proper utilization of already existing programs, and/or easier access to them? Why are we not using I.D.E.A. more completely?

And yes, there are even more problems regarding this bill.

As a conscientious parent, I would like to know how this bill does not violate my parental rights.

As an upstanding citizen of this great nation, I would like to know how this bill does not violate my constitutional rights.

As an already overburdened Connecticut resident and taxpayer, I would like to know how these assessments will be financed.

As a tireless advocate for all children, I would like to know how the implementation of such a bill will truly help the children who need the most assistance.

Critical issues abound with SB 374. It is obviously not the panacea that one would have hoped.

Respectfully submitted by,

Theresa L. Lynch

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