

I, Marguerite Christie, a resident of Watertown, CT and a mother of three children, oppose Bill 374. Anytime legislation is rushed-in without proper and complete thought, especially after a tragedy, it is never worthwhile and could have damaging repercussions.

As the bill is written, it is making the state supercede parental rights. Every child in public school or that is homeschooled (private schools are exempt) will have to undergo behavioral testing. The families could not opt-out. What exactly are these tests? Who is conducting these tests? What will they prove? Will the state just send "state officials" into a homeschooling family's home without a warrant? There are so many unanswered questions.

CT, a state that is financially bankrupt, is now opening itself to more debt and potentially damaging lawsuits. Who is going to pay for these "state medical officials" and what will be their conclusions? What if a child is deemed to be in sound mind and then that child goes on a shooting-spree? Is the state liable for the damages that will be incurred? On the opposite end, what if a child is deemed unstable? That child could now be branded and stigmatized for life and not amount to his or her fullest potential. When did we decide to have the Nanny State? New Englanders have always prided themselves on being independent, free-thinking and self-reliant. Why are we giving away our parental rights and our civil liberties?

This bill has so many open-ended questions and poorly defined requirements that it should be removed from consideration. The state should not act in haste and pass an unconstitutional bill. All medical diagnoses of children should be the parent's responsibility and they should have the right to choose their own medical professional, if they deem it necessary. Please, do not let the tragedy in Newtown lead us down the slippery slope of handing over our parental rights and our civil liberties to the state of CT.