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**Date:** March 6, 2013 6:30:54 PM EST  
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**Subject:** SB374

Please accept my comments Re: Bill SB374. I have been informed this bill mandates repeated psychiatric evaluations every 2 years for all children of school age in Our state of Connecticut. I oppose this bill. I feel the dangers of such a law far outweigh any good it could do.

I fear for parents who will have no rights or input into such an evaluation, and for children who will be labelled with psych diagnoses that may or may not be accurate but will follow not just their school records for life, but also when they apply to colleges and for employment.

Who will conduct these exams? What standards will shape the guidelines for diagnoses? And to what purpose?

Will the state mandate medication, therapy, hospitalization, and who will pay the cost? Will the state mandate clinicians who will provide the treatments? Will parents have any say, any choice, any options in choosing psychiatric professionals for treatment or second opinions?

Where will these evaluations be conducted? Who will pay for them? Who will oversee the outcomes and how will they be measured?

Will children given a psych diagnosis receive family therapy?

Why does the bill call for evaluations every 2 years?

I am a retired RN with many years of experience on addictions and psychiatric inpatient units in a general hospital in Connecticut. I would support designing a system making it easier for parents and teachers to recommend and receive mental health evaluations of students, if problems are suspected. Include education for parents and student peers of behaviors and warning signs to look for.

Right now, if a child is taking medications and privately getting family/individual therapy, it can stay private. What will happen to our privacy laws, if schools keep psych health records for all?

Thank you for considering my views,  
Deborah Dimock

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