

SB 374

I strongly oppose the required mental health assessment. It is an invasion of privacy to the children and of parental rights. Parents know when their children need assistance and go to great lengths to get help. Partnerships between schools and homeschoolers where schools reach out to the entire community offering help, counseling, group sessions, mentors, and friendly overall relationships with parents struggling with their children's illnesses are my suggestions for improving our mentally ill children and adults' lives. I'm also quite confused by the distinction between private schooled students vs. public and homeschooled students. Additionally, requiring homeschoolers to submit to testing without providing them with any services from the public schools seems unfair. From my experience, Homeschoolers have vast networks for support in all areas for their children, especially any mental illnesses and thus these tests would be redundant and expensive. Finally, why not require mental health assessment for all adults in CT, say at the DMV before granting a driver's license? Or track all CT residents for mental illness, say at the grocery store checkout line? This just feels like such an invasion of privacy that could be abused by vague standards and overzealous testers ready to label students.

Thank you for trying to address our grief over the devastating deaths in Newtown, but I disagree with this bill.

Thank you,
Lisa Kotasek
Stamford, CT