

11 Livery Pool Road  
New Hartford, CT 06057  
March 2, 2013

To the Public Health Committee,

Considering the mental state of the killer of so many children and adults in Newtown, I understand the need of legislators to address the issue of securing treatment for those who are ill. As Newtown was my hometown for 20 years and as I am a teacher, I also agree something needs to be done. SB #374 is not the solution. It will create more problems.

Unnecessary psychological evaluations for public and homeschooled children (and private school too?) is just plain wrong. What would be better is to make sure teachers are trained to recognize problems, to have support staff to verify those problems and then with great sensitivity work with parents and assist them in securing further help. Enlistment of services at churches and synagogues is important to include because it is in valuing life and how we treat others that can support parents and help families best.

Many homeschooling parents are teaching at home because they are concerned about the moral values directly or indirectly taught to their children. I know that 30 years ago there were attempts to declare children mentally ill who were taught that the Bible is true. In today's society, this "analysis" is even more probable.

Over 30 years ago a Legislative Committee in Hartford wanted to include an assessment of sexual development into the School Health Task Force Plan, but members of the Concerned Parents of Connecticut and Governor Ella Grasso stopped that from happening. At that time the emphasis was on reducing teen pregnancy and so this idea was proposed. It was as wrong as #374 is wrong.

Please respect families and the privacy of children and stop SB #374.

Respectfully,  
Judith Ruhm