

Welton: SB 374

Thank you members of the Joint Committee on Public Health for accepting my testimony. My name is Christine Welton and I am from Ellington. I am testifying against Senate Bill 374, An Act Requiring Behavioral Health Assessments for Children, because mandating behavior assessments for the general population just seems wrong and unfair.

I will make my objection to this proposed bill short and direct.

The state government is overstepping its bounds and disrespecting my parental rights.

Since the horrible events at Sandy Hook, the handling of what to do about it (with all due respect) has been an overly emotional knee jerk reaction. My heart goes out to all those families who lost members of their own. I am not insensitive to their plight but this is a time to take a deep breath and make common sense decisions. It seems like the flurry of bills that are coming forth, punish the law abiding citizen. America was founded on God given rights and freedoms and we must defend these always. Once we lose them, they will never return.

Let us put resources towards helping those parents with mentally unstable children who have been trying to get help but cannot find any. I remember the Hartford Courant published an article that came out not long after Sandy Hook from the mom who was told her son would have to do something pretty violent and get arrested then they could deal with his problems. That is insane! Throw a mentally ill kid in jail? That is what is wrong. There are no options for these families. Screening every child in public and home schools is not the answer. That is wasting resources that could be much better spent.

There are other issues I have problems with concerning this bill, such as invasion of privacy: what becomes of these assessments after the fact? By what authority does the state have to require mental assessments on my children, without my permission, who have done nothing wrong? I also find it interesting that this bill targets public and home schooled children but not private schooled children?

This bill is unconstitutional on many levels and should be abandoned in lieu of finding better solutions to help those families who have identified children that need and seek help but there is not any to be had.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Christine Welton
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