

Public Health Committee Members, thank you for allowing  
AbleChild.org to submit testimony electronically  
5626 & Proposed Bill 6276 (***Training Bill***)

LCO No. 918



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:

REP. SRINIVASAN, 31st Dist.

***AN ACT CONCERNING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FOR PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

That the general statutes be amended to prohibit health care providers from prescribing more than a one-month supply of a drug to treat a patient's psychiatric condition.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To prevent misuse of prescription drugs.

**REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT:**

***AbleChild: Parents for Label and Drug Free Education*** is a nationally recognized Non-Profit Organization (501c3) dedicated to parents, caregivers, and children's rights alike. Incorporated in New York in November 2003, AbleChild is steadily moving toward ensuring that all caregivers are provided with a safe haven, resource center, and support network when faced with issues surrounding subjective psychiatric labels assigned, and drug "treatment" prescribed, to our nation's vulnerable children.

Founded in 2001 by parents who had their own personal experiences with label and drug coercion by the education system, AbleChild has a personal commitment to inform, support, and unite others faced with all aspects involving labeling and drugging children.

AbleChild, a national parent's rights organization, is dedicated to protecting full informed consent and the right to refuse psychiatric services.

AbleChild educates parents on the risks associated with using psychiatric drugs on children and promotes a label and drug free education in our schools. AbleChild has no religious or political affiliations.

AbleChild does support the concept of this bill aimed at reducing the overprescribing of psychiatric drugs; however, this bill needs to ensure that patients are giving critical information and access to the known deadly side effects of increased risk of suicide and violence associated with use and illustrated by the Black Box SUICIDE warning that is on the box of the products.

We urge this committee to add language on Informed Consent to ensure that all who prescribe psychiatric drugs provide the consumers with access to the MEDWatch program, the FDA Adverse Reporting System that is used to compile information from the consumer on side effects and are used to regulate the drug companies by compiling critical public safety data from the MEDwatch forms. The FDA wants to hear from the consumer. The FDA indicates that less than 1% of consumers use the “adverse drug reporting system.” They do not know it exists, or how to work it.

In addition, AbleChild strongly recommends large fines be applied to prescribers who give “cocktails of psychiatric drugs” that are “off label” and not approved by the FDA for use for that particular condition. We strongly urge this committee to look at language on the destruction of patient records and the current regulations that oversee the years of patient record retention.

AbleChild looks to Dr. Paul Fox, the primary treating psychiatrist of Adam Lanza as the perfect case to illustrate our requested amendments. We would be happy to provide this committee with the section of the Sandy Hook Police report that relates directly to the prescribing of psychiatric drugs and treating psychiatrists.

We stand ready to provide this committee with additional documentation to support our requested amendments.

Thank you,  
Sheila Matthews

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