

HB0782

Margaret Stoklosa

Opposed

Dear Delegates,

As a parent, this bill is very frustrating considering that cultivating a loving and trusting relationship with my children is my number one priority. Their emotional stability exists because of that relationship.

Honestly, I do not see a need for this type of bill. By way of design, young children spend time with educators on a daily basis (beyond their parents), who can observe any potential concerns and communicate those to the parent (if there are bigger concerns, there is a process in place already in the schools). Similarly, in middle school and high school the process repeats with both teachers and counselors being involved.

We moved to Maryland at the beginning of the school year. This was a very tough transition for our 7th grader, who cried almost every day for two weeks and made many visits to the counselor. The counselor was concerned that my daughter was depressed, even though she had just started a new school, in a new state with 1200 new faces! Nonetheless, we understood her concern when she indicated we should take her to the Crisis Center. They determined that our daughter was not depressed (and of course, as parents we knew this by observing and talking to our daughter on a daily basis) and that this new school anxiety would indeed pass (which it did). The process in place worked as intended.

As a matter of practicality, parents are also financially responsible for their children until their 18th birthday. Insurance companies even support policies for children up to 25.

There is no need for this bill. Please do not support it.

Thank you,
Margaret Stoklosa
20878