

HB0782
Deirdre Peterson
Opposed

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

I'd like to address the inevitable negative consequences this bill would impart on African American males.

Racial disparities in rates of psychotic disorder diagnoses have been reported across time and mental health professions.

Recent studies show that there's a 70 percent increase in ADHD identification for Black children. Black boys are diagnosed with the disorder at a higher rate than any other group of students in the United States. Diagnosis of this disorder can follow a child for the rest of their lives.

A study among minors in psychiatric emergency centers has found that African American adolescents are TWICE as likely to receive a psychotic disorder diagnosis compared to their Euro American peers.

Studies have shown that children of color, including those with ADHD, are more likely than their white counterparts to be prescribed strong antipsychotics — even though the side effects can be severe and dangerous.

I am the parent to 5 children, two of whom are male. Parents remain THE ultimate care provider for their children and, as such, parents must remain the decision makers for these types of medical procedures concerning their minor children.

This seems like yet another avenue through which pharmaceuticals are being pushed at our children who would be vulnerable to the influence of adults in positions of authority.

The removal of parental protections for their children is a dangerous step in the wrong direction. Other minor consent bills which were proposed this session have been withdrawn. I encourage the committee to do the same in this instance.

I Thank you for your time.

Deirdre Peterson