

HB0782  
Tiffany Sanders  
**Opposed**

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to HB 0782, the bill regarding minor consent for health care. I have several concerns regarding this bill. Chiefly, the sheer scope of this bill feels boundless, and it removes the parent from their child's mental and emotional health care decisions.

This bill does not set a minimum age for consent; it does not provide a proxy (in lieu that a parent is unable to make these decisions for the child) and instead, leaves that in the *minor child's* hands ; removes the executive functioning of the parent over their child's emotional and mental health; and potentially places the child in a situation where their care is left to a novice or inadequate care provider. This bill removes parental involvement in a key part of a child's health care. It also pushes aside all reason about a young child's ability to participate in their care, and disregards the inevitable likelihood that a child will bow to the adult authority when it comes to making these decisions, even if the child him/herself is not comfortable with the decisions.

I know several parents who have sought mental or emotional care for their child. They are involved in the diagnosing and treatment of their children. They also have conducted much research and effort to find the provider who works best with their child's needs and personalities. Often, they visit several providers before finding the one that works best for their child. **The key point here is that it takes multiple appointments and trials to find the appropriate provider for their child! Some of the original providers even *misdiagnosed* the children, and it took parent advocacy to get the correct diagnosis.**

Please reconsider this bill and withdraw it from the committee.

Thank you,  
Tiffany Sanders  
District 32 voter