

HB0782
Jessica Bronico
Opposed

Dear Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

As a parent in Maryland, I am very concerned about this bill. I oppose HB0782.

How on earth could a 5- year-old for instance CONSENT to mental health treatment? Most cannot even read yet! The fact that this bill does not have a minimum age for consent is shocking and irresponsible.

Also, the original bill that was submitted included pharmaceutical drug treatment. It is my understanding that this portion has been removed? Is that correct? If not, it definitely needs to be removed.

How is this any different than a school counselor? Is it just the diagnosis piece? Why does that piece even matter now if they are not receiving prescriptions? Wouldn't the school counselor be sufficient?

There are so many concerns I have with this bill. I believe the intention is very good but there must be a better way to help kids in our state.

Thank you,
Jessica Bronico
District #5