

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I want to express my full support for HB 1242- Fundamental Parental Rights.

This past year, someone that I am close to received a devastating diagnosis for their child, from Children's Hospital. The treatment Children's recommended included a drug that carried a risk of giving the child cancer in the future. This risk was so high that the parents had to come for a special meeting, without the child, to have this explained, and so they could sign paperwork establishing that they understood the risk.

They wanted a second opinion. They were curious if anyone could treat her without that risky drug. Children's began calling their home and threatening a CPS referral if they did not return and start the treatment that they recommended.

I am thrilled to report that the child is recovered now and never went on that drug. CPS was never actually called, but the family was threatened by Children's and it caused them great anxiety at an already terribly frightening time.

I am a Pediatric Physical Therapist and fully, 100% support the parent finding the option that works best for the child and the family. I believe this bill will help to protect vulnerable families in our state.

Thank You,

Sarah Cusack, MPT

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