

SB 0041: Health – Mental and Emotional Disorders – Consent (Mental Health Access Initiative)

Unfavorable

Kara Fisher

Senate Finance Committee Members:

I oppose SB 0041, which would give minors the ability to seek out and “purchase” mental health services.

While my children attended public schools, I found the counselors were quite proactive in offering opportunities for children to seek counseling or support. This bill would provide duplicative resources.

As a practical consideration, how will a 12-year-old find and pay for a counseling session? How is the kindergartener a substitute for a parent to find a qualified counselor covered by his Medicaid or other insurance plan’s Behavioral health coverage?

I appreciate the intention of the bill to ensure that all children have access to mental health services, but if this bill passes, a parent may not be aware that his child is receiving mental health services.

I ask you to oppose SB 0041; it will be discussed in a Committee hearing on Tuesday, February 2.

Kara Fisher

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