

The synopsis of House Bill 1224 (HB 1224) titled: “Public Schools - Medical and Psychological Treatment in School-Based Health Centers and Public Schools - Parental Notice,” is:

Requiring a school health practitioner, health care practitioner, or certified school psychologist employed by or under a contract with a school-based health center, local school system, or local health department to provide school health services at a public school to provide certain information to a certain student's parent or guardian about any consultation, diagnosis, or treatment provided to the student.

We fully and strongly support HB 1224 for the following reasons:

- Transparency of the medical and psychological treatment of students given to the children of Maryland parents in public schools is the parents' right to know as an inherent part of their Constitutional right¹. The United States Supreme Court declared in 1972 “The history and culture of Western civilization reflect a strong tradition of parental concern for the nurture and upbringing of their children. This primary role of the parents in the upbringing of their children is now established beyond debate as an enduring American tradition.” *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205 (1972), at 232.
- Parents have a fundamental right to direct their children's health and psychological care and must be informed of the issues their children are diagnosed with at school as well as any treatment their children may receive prior to it being given while in public school and public school-based health centers. Parents also have a fundamental right to choose to not have their children receive any such care.
- Not notifying parents of medical and psychological treatment prior to it being given to students can put students at a high risk. Healthcare providers in a public school setting don't have access to students' full medical history and cannot fully assess the relative risks and benefits of medical interventions for pediatric patients in schools and health centers without first notifying and conferring with parents.
- Parents must be informed of medical and psychological diagnoses and treatments administered to their children in public school settings and healthcare centers in order to partner with the student's primary healthcare providers and other support systems to address the diagnosis and any factors contributing to the student's health. The purpose of parents receiving such notification is so they, in partnership with their primary healthcare providers, can determine the best and safest course of action.
- Students who receive medical or mental healthcare without parental notice in public school settings may be at increased risk of susceptibility to [social contagion](#) and/or may be at greater risk to receive off-label medical treatments which are [not supported by adequate evidence](#). The State of Maryland would be placed in a high-risk situation if treatments were given to students that harmed them, or worse yet caused them to die. This outcome is unthinkable and unacceptable to parents of those students impacted and should also be so to the State of Maryland. The associated negative financial impacts to the State of Maryland,

¹ From the 14th Amendment: “No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

which could be held accountable for these outcomes, is unacceptable due to the high risk of this possible outcome.

For the reasons stated above, we strongly support HB 1224. Please let this bill go forward as soon as possible.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Mark and Pamela Lombard
Gaithersburg, MD 20878