



Bill: HB 65

Title: Public School - Medical and Psychological Treatment in School-Based Health Centers and Public Schools – Parental Notice

Hearing Date: March 11, 2024

Position: FAVORABLE

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Moms for Liberty Maryland Legislative Committee requests a **Favorable Report for HB 65.**

Research shows that parent’s involvement in their child’s mental health therapy is linked with better outcomes. Kids do better in therapy when their parents actively participate. Parental involvement is favored by clinicians and leads to better child mental health outcomes than treatments that do not involve parents.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4433419/>

Parent’s participation in their child’s therapy benefits everybody: the parent, the child, and and the child’s care provider.

Child therapists have **broad knowledge**. They have education and training in the mental health field and possess extensive data

on the large numbers of children experiencing a vast array of mental disorders.

Parents have **deep knowledge**. They know their individual child better than anyone else. Having been with their child from birth, parents know their child's history and can remember details about their child's life their child may not remember.

Working together, the school and the family are best equipped to ensure positive outcomes in a child's education and mental health.

Parents' rights to direct the upbringing and education of their children are fundamental rights protected by the U.S. Constitution. These inalienable rights extend to the parent's right to direct the medical care of their child. By failing to inform or include parents in mental health therapy provided in school based health clinics, schools risk alienating suffering children from those who know and love them best. Parents should never be excluded from knowledge and care that impacts their fundamental right to exercise the primary role in their child's wellbeing.

Moms for Liberty Maryland Legislative Committee urges a Favorable Report for HB 65.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzie Scott

Chair

Moms for Liberty Maryland Legislative Committee