

HB 65: Public Schools - Medical and Psychological Treatment in School-Based Health Centers and Public Schools - Parental Notice: Please SUPPORT this bill!!

Regardless of your politics, for those of us with children, we are PARENTS first. We are the people that love our children the most. We want what is best for our children. We want our children to grow up to be happy, healthy and productive adults. We want our children to contribute positively to society. We, as parents, know our children the best.

NOT governmental agencies, NOT government officials. NOT school-based health personnel.

This is a very important bill to anyone who is a PARENT first. The bill states: "...FOR the purpose of requiring certain school health practitioners employed by or under contract with certain entities to provide school health services in a school-based health center or public school to provide certain information to a certain student's parent or guardian to consult, diagnose, or treat a certain student under certain circumstances..."

A parent has the **fundamental right** to direct the upbringing, education, care, and welfare of the parent's child, and the State or a political subdivision should be prohibited from infringing on a parent's fundamental right to direct the upbringing, education, care, and welfare of the parent's child.

Please review the below points of why I am asking all of you to support this bill, especially the last point:

- This bill upholds the fundamental rights of parents to direct the upbringing, education, care, and welfare of their children, which have been under attack this session and in previous sessions in other proposed legislation.
- Parents have the fundamental right to direct and to refuse any medical treatments, procedures, interventions or vaccinations, etc. which might be administered to their students in school settings or in pharmacies.
- Parents must retain the fundamental right to discover and direct the care of their children while those children are attending school, including the

full content of information to which the children are exposed, and any medical treatment, procedure, intervention, or vaccination, etc., including mental health care, administered.

- Parents demonstrably have the highest vested interest in their children's welfare and are best equipped to make important decisions for their children regarding their care.
- The state provides remedies for rare cases in which children are living in circumstances of abuse and neglect. There is no context in which it's necessary or appropriate for the state legislature to pass laws that undermine or usurp the authority of all parents, the vast majority of whom provide much better care and decision-making for their children than the state is capable of providing.
- The Supreme Court ruled in 1979: "Most children, even in adolescence, simply are not able to make sound judgments concerning many decisions, including their need for medical care or treatment. Parents can and must make those judgments."

I'm sure that we can all agree that the medical records of a child should never be kept hidden from that child's parents! Many adverse reactions from vaccinations, medications, etc. take weeks or longer to appear. If a child starts having a seizure, when that child had no previous medical history of seizures, it would be crucial for the parents to know what product was given to their child and when. This could be the difference between life and death for that child. The parents and their children's physicians should be the ones collaborating on what is best for the child, NOT government officials or school-based health personnel who have never treated the child. Government officials and school-based personnel do not have the vast amount of medical information and background about the child that the parents and the child's personal physicians do and, therefore, cannot make the best decisions for a child.

Again, parental rights are paramount to the very health and well-being of their children. We must support those parental rights, for the sake of all of our children!!

Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation in SUPPORTING this very important bill!!

Trudy Tibbals

A Very Concerned Mother and Maryland resident