

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass with Amendments to the A-Engrossed Measure. (Printed B-Engrossed)

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Knopp, Kruse, Shields, Steiner Hayward, Monnes Anderson

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/16, 5/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows parent or legal guardian request in writing that student not participate in mental health screening conducted in school when screenings conducted for all students in specified grade or classroom. Specifies notification requirements. Prohibits result from being included in student's education record. Specifies that for a school to conduct a mental health screening on an individual student, parent or legal guardian must give written consent. Allows students, or parent or legal guardian to orally refuse to participate in a mental health screening on day of screening.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Student access to mental health
- Current process of how consent is obtained
- Continued transformation to integrate mental health with physical health
- Proposed amendment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Allows students, or parent or legal guardian to orally refuse to participate in a mental health screening on day of screening.

BACKGROUND: A 2007 Harvard Medical School study by researcher Ronald Kessler found that 50 percent of all mental illnesses start by age 14. The 2011 Oregon Healthy Teens survey found that 13.6 percent of eighth-graders who responded said they had seriously considered attempting suicide. A recent pilot program in Linn County introduced mental health screening of students, much like vision or hearing checks in schools.

According to the American Psychological Association, an estimated 15 million of our nation's young people can currently be diagnosed with a mental health disorder. Many more are at risk of developing a disorder due to risk factors in their biology or genetics; within their families, schools, and communities; and among their peers. However, a Surgeon General's Report estimated that only about 7 percent of these youth who need services receive appropriate help from mental health professionals.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.