

As a parent I OPPOSE this bill because I have a 10 year old son. He gets A's in school. He is an athlete. He is an all around GOOD kid. But emphasis on the word "kid."

During his yearly doctor check-up I allow my son to speak for himself. As I believe he should develop his own voice and his own ability to speak of his own medical issues. BUT!!!! There have been numerous times when the doctor will ask my son a question, for example; "Do you sleep well?" And my son will automatically answer "No, I can't fall asleep." But as his mother, knowing when he goes to bed- being able to hear him snoring or sleeping shortly there after- I KNOW he has no trouble falling asleep. So I asked my son, after he has answered the Dr, "Then who was snoring in your room?" He laughs and then tells the doctor the truth. That he has no trouble falling asleep.

If I was not present to keep my son honest, or remind him of what I know to be true- his doctor would have thought there was a problem when there was none. I NEEDED to be there.

I love my son. He is on his way to being a good man someday. But he is still a CHILD. I believe our children need to be kept accountable for themselves, but also protected from a situation where they could be forced to answer questions they may not be comfortable answering.

At 10 years old my son is still becoming comfortable with speaking about medical things with his doctor. And there have been moments when the doctor has asked a legitimate medical question about private physical matters. My son physically looked to me for assurance to know he could say what he needed to say. In that situation I don't believe my son would have given the doctor the information he needed if I were not present to support him.

These are the reasons I oppose this bill. Our children should ALWAYS have a legal guardian present when discussing medical issues. To ensure our children give correct information to the medical staff and to be certain our children feel like they can trust the medical staff with the truth.

-from an Oregon Mom