

This bill is covertly sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry as a means to increase sales of very dangerous psychiatric drugs and charge the cost to the taxpayer and health insurance premium payers. "Students for a Healthy Oregon" which provided testimony in support of the bill are an astroturf effort funded and organized by a trade association named the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA). Dr. Robin Henderson of Providence Health receives speaking and research fees from pharmaceutical companies - an undisclosed conflict of interest.

Adolescents' brains are maturing, and interfering with this process through the overprescription of psychiatric medications triggered by "mental health screening" programs can cause lasting damage to their neurophysical development. The dangers of psychiatric drugs - and outright fraud in their clinical trials - have been examined by former NEJM editor Marcia Angell In "The Truth About the Drug Companies" as well as by Peter Goetsche formerly of the Cochrane Collaborative.

We need to protect Oregon's minors from these predatory pill pushers, not make them dependent.