

Submitter: Jeff Myers  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure: HB2643

Hello Representatives of the Education Committee. While I appreciate the spirit for which this bill has been crafted, I must say the bill itself should not be passed.

I think we all understand and appreciate the immense pressure our state's youth are under right now. Our schools have failed them. In my own school district, our students have endured years of "experiments" put on them. These experiments include new approaches to discipline, new curricula, and increasingly larger class sizes as fundings shifts to nearly everything but classroom teachers.

I ask you to pause for a moment. Take a deep breath. Then ask yourself these questions:

"Why are education leaders best equipped to drive mental health programs for children?"

"With teachers already beyond the limits of burnout, are we ready to put more non-academic training on their plates?"

"Who or what organization would be better equipped to help a child dealing with thoughts of suicide or self-harm?"

Bills like this continue to arrive in front of you, just as they have in past sessions. With each passing bill, we have seen schools move further and further away from centers of learning & knowledge. I realize many of our youth may be in situations where they don't have easy access to health and/or mental health professional. There are existing programs to help, and perhaps those need to be expanded to ensure all children can get the support they need. However, having seen just how poorly our public education system is running for the CORE job it has, I can't imagine giving them responsibility and authority over such sensitive areas like this.

I urge you to vote no on this bill and suggest they look to existing agencies that focus in this particular area to address the problem and let schools get back to academics.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this very important and sensitive matter.

Jeff Myers