

Submitter: Philip A Kumin  
On Behalf Of: Public domain  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure: HB2646

I am writing to you to oppose passage of HB 2646, which deals with implementing training in all Oregon schools as to the methods of Mental Health First Aid. The difficulty with MHFA is that it is outmoded, with its incentives to interpret normal adolescent behavior as indicators of mental illness. If a child's particular behavior is considered rightly or wrongly to be indicative of mental illness, this then leads to a diagnosis, a lifelong punitive quandary. This is certainly no way in which to boost a person's sense of self-esteem!

As an alternative, I'd like to suggest that training in the methods of Emotional CPR, (eCPR,) be promoted instead.

Thank you so kindly.