

Submitter: Jana Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

I strongly oppose HB 2002. Minor children need parental involvement when making reproductive healthcare choices. It is unsafe and unwise to create barriers to parent involvement. Children cannot carry and dispense their own ibuprofen or allergy medication at school. Minors cannot vote until age 18 and young adults cannot drink until age 21. There is a reason for these limits. If we don't trust young people to make decisions and engage in behavior until a certain age, why would we trust them with their own healthcare choices? Since parents are financially covering health insurance and are responsible for the provision of a minor, they should be involved in the decisions regarding the decisions related to sexual health procedures and the purchase of pharmaceuticals. The prefrontal cortex of adolescent brains is not developed enough to manage these decisions independently. Please do not move forward with HB 2002.