

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES, 2005-2006 86/2

11754 SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES

SB

37

Alaska State Legislature

Senator Kim Elton
Minority Whip




Senator Fred Dyson
Chair, Health Education &
Social Services

MEMORANDUM

February 3, 2005

To: Senator Fred Dyson, Chair
Senate Health Education & Social Services Committee

From: Kim Elton 

Re: SB 37

I respectfully request a hearing on Senate Bill 37, requiring the department of Health & Social Services to rewrite its regulations on the transportation of dead bodies.

I have attached our sponsor statement, a copy of the regulation, and a recent news article that ran in both the Anchorage and Juneau papers.

I appreciate your joint sponsorship of this bill, and look forward to presenting it before the committee as soon as is convenient.

Alaska State Legislature



**Senator Kim Elson
Minority Whip**

**Senator Fred Dyson
Chair, Health Education &
Social Services**

SB 37 Transportation of Dead Bodies

Sponsor Statement

Alaska law currently requires any dead body transported in or out of the state to first be embalmed. This requirement, found in public health regulations, was in effect prior to statehood. Back when few communities had daily jet service, dry ice was not widely available, and plastics technology not as advanced as it is today, this was necessary to protect the public health.

Members of certain religious groups, however, do not embalm their dead. When these Alaskans wish to be buried next to a loved one out of state or in the Holy Land, or when they wish to bury a loved one in Alaska who passed away Outside, their religious practices and state law come into conflict. This requirement can also impact tourists visiting our state.

Government should only infringe religious liberty when necessary to serve a compelling state interest, like protection of the public health. SB 37 requires the Department of Health & Social Services to rewrite its regulations regarding the transportation of dead bodies. It gives the department the flexibility it needs to require embalming where necessary to protect the public health, but not as a general matter of course.

We would appreciate your support.

adn.com

Anchorage Daily News

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Alaska embalming law wars with religions**TRANSPORT: Jewish woman tries to strike down state rule that impedes exercise of faith.**By MATT VOLZ
The Associated Press*(Published: February 2, 2005)*

JUNEAU -- Sending Grace Weinberg to her final resting place nearly came down to a choice between breaking the laws of the state or those of her religion.

Weinberg was 84 years old when she moved in with her daughter, Sheryl, in Juneau in 1995. Grace was an active member of the town's small Jewish community and even led an aerobics class three days a week.

But by spring 2003, the 92-year-old's health had diminished, and she and her daughter began to plan her funeral.

Grace's final resting place was to be beside her late husband in Arizona. But when Sheryl met with a Juneau funeral director about transporting her mother to Phoenix, she hit an obstacle: Bodies cannot cross Alaska state lines unless they have been embalmed.

"We're Jewish," Weinberg said. "When I told him she couldn't be embalmed, he told me that was impossible."

Jewish tradition prohibits the dead from being embalmed, according to several rabbis and religious scholars, because all the organs and fluids are sacred and must be buried with the body, and the embalming process removes them and replaces them with chemicals to slow decomposition.

"The reason it's not permitted is because we use the notion from dust to dust," said Rabbi Edythe Menscher of the Union for Reform Judaism based in New York. "As you are created, so you return."

Some other faiths, such as Islam, also prohibit embalming the dead.

In the Weinbergs' case, it became a matter of working around the law of the state to comply with the law of their faith.

Sheryl Weinberg spent six weeks talking to state officials and medical examiners, trying to get a waiver to transport her mother's remains. It was important that the paperwork be in place because once Grace died, Jewish law required she be buried as quickly as possible.

The waiver came through just weeks before Grace died in August 2003. Her body was sent quickly to Phoenix, unembalmed.

"Had we not had the waiver, it would have been impossible to have honored her wish," her daughter said.



In order to carry out her mother's wish to be buried in Phoenix, Sheryl Weinberg had to fight an Alaska law that prohibits transport of unembalmed bodies across state borders. *(The Associated Press)*

[Click on photo to enlarge](#)

Sheryl Weinberg has taken her fight to Alaska's Capitol, where she hopes to see the law struck down. She said she does not want other families to go through what she did as she prepared for her mother's death.

"The fact that I had a roadblock almost first thing and had to secure this waiver, it was not something I relished, but I had to pursue it to the end," she said.

The law that requires bodies be embalmed has been part of state public health regulations since Alaska was a territory.

"This could be an artifact from the time when the technology provided that dry ice would be packed on the body and (it) be shipped on a freighter," said Sen. Kim Elton, a Democrat from Juneau and a sponsor of a bill to change the law.

Elton and the other sponsors say technological advances and daily jet service have reduced the health concerns the law was meant to address.

Allowing the law to stand now infringes on religious liberty, they say.

Deb Erickson, deputy director of the state Department of Health, said the issue rarely comes up in Alaska, where the Lubavitch Jewish Center estimates about 5,000 of the state's population of nearly 650,000 are Jewish.

Erickson said she can remember two cases in the past two years when embalming waivers were requested.

"We haven't hesitated to grant a waiver in the past when it's due to religious services," she said.

At least one funeral director doesn't think changing the law is a good idea. Bill Wilkerson, general manager of Alaskan Memorial Park and Mortuary in Juneau, said he believes transporting unembalmed bodies could pose a health risk or cause discomfort to others, such as passengers aboard a plane that carries an unembalmed body not properly sealed in a container.

Changing the law also could cut into the bottom line of funeral parlors, which charge for embalming.

"It's not a big issue but it could become a big issue if it came to somebody who didn't want to pay for embalming," Wilkerson said.

There is no public health threat in transporting an unembalmed body on a common carrier such as an airplane as long as the body is in a sealed container, Erickson said. The proposed law change would still require embalming for bodies carrying communicable diseases, she added.

An Alaska Airlines spokeswoman said the airline's policies follow state law. If the law in Alaska changes, the airline would adjust its policies, she said.

Rabbi Yosef Greenberg of the Lubavitch Jewish Center in Anchorage said the issue does not come up frequently now, but Alaska's population and tourism industry are growing. Last year, he said, he helped secure a waiver to return to Israel the bodies of two Israeli tourists who died in a car crash.

Greenberg said he fully supports changing the law.

"I think it's a very crucial resolution," Greenberg said.

Against state lines

THE LAW: Public health laws require bodies be embalmed before they are transported across Alaska state lines.

THE CONFLICT: Judaism, Islam and some other religions prohibit their dead from being embalmed.

THE PROPOSED CHANGE: Bills filed in the Alaska House and Senate would change the law to allow unembalmed bodies to cross state lines so that religious traditions aren't compromised because of state law. The exception would be in the case of communicable diseases.

-- The Associated Press

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7 AAC 35.100. Transportation of the dead

(a) The transportation of human remains dead of any diseases mentioned in 7 AAC 35.090 shall be permitted only under the following conditions:

- (1) the body shall be thoroughly embalmed with disinfectant solution; and
- (2) all orifices shall be closed with absorbent cotton; and
- (3) the body shall be washed with the solution and placed immediately in an hermetically sealed casket; and
- (4) the casket encased in a suitable shipping container acceptable to the Commissioner of Health and Social Services.

(b) The transportation of human remains dead of any cause other than those diseases mentioned in 7 AAC 35.090 is permitted only under the following conditions:

- (1) when the destination can be reached within the state within 24 hours after death, an unembalmed body shall be thoroughly washed, all orifices shall be closed with absorbent cotton, and the body dressed in a clean sheet and placed in an hermetically sealed metal shipping container;
- (2) human remains shipped into or out of Alaska must first be embalmed;
- (3) when the body cannot reach its destination within 24 hours after the death, the body shall be thoroughly embalmed, and placed in a casket; the casket encased in a suitable shipping container acceptable to the Commissioner of Health and Social Services;
- (4) exceptions to (b) of this section may be approved only by the Commissioner of Health and Social Services where circumstances render the provisions of (b) of this section impossible to carry out.

(c) An outside shipping container is required in all instances except when the casket is transported in a hearse. The outside container shall be of wood, canvas, reinforced nylon, composition board, or other suitable material.

History: In effect before 7/28/59; am 2/21/71, Register 37

Authority: AS 18.05.040

SB

48

Memorandum

To: Senator Fred Dyson, Chair
Senate HESS Committee

From: Senator Bettye Davis *BD.*

Date: March 9, 2006

RE: Addressing Concerns for Senate Bill 48

I wanted to reiterate to you some of the changes I have incorporated into the proposed CS for SB 48 as they pertain your memo of April 29, 2003 on SB 5. I'm not certain you've had the opportunity to note the changes since your memo. Therefore I will address your concerns from that memo.

Here are the responses to your major questions:

I would also like to know the status of this issue in Alaskan schools. How large of a problem is this issue?

Most information of this nature is antidotal, as most teachers and schools wouldn't necessarily admit to this. Here are excerpts of testimony from SB 230 (the bill's designation when originally introduced during the 22nd Legislature) and two other comments.

March 4, 2002 Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committee Meeting

"...However at times, teachers also may make suggestions regarding medication out of an attempt to be helpful because they are trying to help a parent come up with options that may be useful. Again, this points out the need for training in that area because while the suggestion maybe from good intentions, it may not have the intended consequences."

(Greg Maloney, Director of Special Education, DEED)

"The North Star Borough School District has brought in psychiatrists from other states on two different occasions to give teachers a pep talk on how to identify children with ADHD in the classroom. During the seminar, the psychiatrist supported the use of Ritalin and another drug as part of the treatment plan. Also the school district has had a long time relationship with Dr. Ferguson who is a leader in prescribing Ritalin in Fairbanks. I asked the school board to have Dr. Ferguson come in and give an opinion on evaluating a child for ADHD and psychotropic drugs but they declined."

(Frank Turney, Fairbanks Resident)

May 11, 2002 Senate Judiciary Committee Meeting

Chairman Taylor thanked Senator Davis and said he has heard of situations in his district in which children were placed on psychotropic drugs but once the children were removed from the drugs and the school setting, they did very well.

(Robin Taylor, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee)

Other Statements

May 1, 2005

"After talking about the issue with several parents of school aged children (K-12), my own experiences and that of my immediate and distant family, I've formed the opinion that those people who do not believe this happens and those of us to whom this has happened, view education as though we were from entirely different planets. Why do we have to "convince" an education board that we are telling the truth?"

"...However the fact remains that the parents I have recently spoken to, 15 separate families, in my research of this subject have all had this recommendation from teachers for their children. Here in Fairbanks. So, we have at least 15 individual teachers who have used this 'medically concerned' tactic."
(Email from BJ Williams, concerned grandparent in Fairbanks)

March 11, 2006

"I had four different teachers and one academic counselor tell me my son probably needed some kind of drugs because he was very active and was not engaged. I finally had to put him in a school outside that didn't do that, that kept him engaged. He's graduating with good grades."

(Statement by Rick Henderson to legislative staff, Richard Benavides)

It seems that current law already addresses these concerns. Schools are already prohibited from linking admission to treatment/medication. In addition there are currently mechanisms in place to investigate and discipline school personnel who make unethical choices.

Currently, AS 14.30.045 currently states the Grounds for suspension or denial of admission and it seems that the directives of this bill are already implied in that section. It would appear that school personnel who deny admission for failure to receive treatment/medication are already breaking the law.

The Professional Teaching Practices Commission, made up of nine members appointed by the Governor, works to ensure Alaska educators follow the Code of Ethics of the Education Profession. It has the authority to discipline educator misconduct. Anyone can submit a complaint to the Commission. Commission staff investigates complaints, and the Commission, acting like a jury, decides whether an educator will be disciplined. More info can be found at <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/ptpc/>. It seems that their duties already include dealing with issues like this. This commission is established in AS 14.20.380-14.20.510.

The statute you reference above (AS 14.30.045) along with AS 14.30.047¹ seems designed to cover areas concerning physical and mental disorders that render the child either incapable of benefiting from school or being a danger to themselves or others. The statute does not directly relate to a linkage between treatment/medication. It would seem difficult to bring an action against a teacher for recommending the use of a psychotropic drug using this statute.

In relation to AS14.30.045 and AS14.30.047, there is no violations section for those statutes.

While there are mechanisms in place to investigate those who make unethical choices, the Code of Ethics and Teaching Standards does not contain any language on this subject.³

While the standards allow for an investigation if a teacher commits a crime, the present statutes concerning discipline (AS 14.20.030. Causes For Revocation and Suspension.)³ would not cover psychotropic drugs. If the bill passes, then a law would have been broken allowing for an investigation by the Professional Teaching Practices Commission.

Regarding AS 14.30.171 (5) (C), I believe schools do have the right to recommend a child be evaluated by a doctor.

The proposed CS on page 1, line 7 contains the words, "unless otherwise authorized by law," which was purposely added to allow those within a school district or individual school who has the training and whose position has as one of their authorized duties to make such a recommendation, to continue to do so.

Regarding AS 14.30.172, it seems that this section is unnecessary to again state what school personnel are already allowed to do.

This was a drafting choice by legislative legal to make clear what is allowed after the section stating what is not allowed.

Regarding AS 14.30.174, items (1), (2), and (3) seem redundant in lieu of earlier material in the bill.

Regarding AS 14.30.179 (1), what does this mean? What does the federal education law state?

I will combine the answers to both questions, as they are related. In the CS, this is moved to page 3, line 8 as section 14.30.174(b)(1). This definition cites the federal laws that apply to any state that receives federal funding for children from these programs. Portions of this law covers assessments of children to determine eligibility for services, hence the inclusion of this section to allow those acting within the scope of the federal law to recommend these actions.

Regarding AS 14.30.177, will a teacher be fired? Is this appropriate in light of the authority of the P.T.P.C.?

As stated above in an earlier question, if the bill passes, and a teacher is alleged to have broken this law, the Professional Teaching Practices Commission would undertake an investigation. If the teacher were found to have broken this law, the punishment would still be up to the commission. Whether it rises to the level of dismissal is up to the commission. There would have to be substantial noncompliance as cited in AS 14.20.170(3)⁴

Regarding AS 14.30.179 (3), where is this definition from?

In the proposed CS, this definition is moved to page 3, line 29 and listed simply as AS 14.30.179. It is taken from AS 14.25.220(33)

Regarding AS 14.30.171 (3), how will this affect current practice?

These evaluations would still be allowed. As stated in a prior question, the proposed CS allows school personnel who are trained and authorized by their school or district to perform these evaluations, can continue to do so. I don't believe we want individuals without the knowledge to perform these tasks doing those types of important evaluations.

Notes

AS 14.30.045. Grounds For Suspension or Denial of Admission.

A school age child may be suspended from or denied admission to the public school that the child is otherwise entitled to attend only for the following causes:

- (1) continued wilful disobedience or open and persistent defiance of reasonable school authority;
- (2) behavior that is inimicable to the welfare, safety, or morals of other pupils or a person employed or volunteering at the school;
- (3) a physical or mental condition that in the opinion of a competent medical authority will render the child unable to reasonably benefit from the programs available;
- (4) a physical or mental condition that in the opinion of a competent medical authority will cause the attendance of the child to be inimicable to the welfare of other pupils;
- (5) conviction of a felony that the governing body of the district determines will cause the attendance of the child to be inimicable to the welfare or education of other pupils.

AS 14.30.047. Admission or Readmission When Cause No Longer Exists.

(a) A child who has been suspended from or denied admittance to a school under AS 14.30.045 (3) or (4) shall be permitted to attend school when the child is obviously recovered or presents to the governing body a statement in writing from a competent medical authority that the child is no longer afflicted with, or suffering from, the physical or mental condition to the extent that it is a cause for suspension or denial of admission under AS 14.30.045 (3) or (4).

20 AAC 10.020. CODE OF ETHICS AND TEACHING STANDARDS. (a) The following code of ethical and professional standards governs all members of the teaching profession. A violation of this section is grounds for discipline as provided in AS 14.20.030.

(b) In fulfilling obligations to students, an educator:

- (1) repealed 10/25/2000;
- (2) may not deliberately distort, suppress, or deny access to curricular materials or educational information in order to promote the personal view, interest, or goal of the educator;
- (3) shall make reasonable effort to protect students from conditions harmful to learning or to health and safety;
- (4) may not engage in physical abuse of a student or sexual conduct with a student and shall report to the commission knowledge of such an act by an educator;
- (5) may not expose a student to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement;
- (6) may not harass, discriminate against, or grant a discriminatory advantage to a student on the grounds of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, marital status, political or religious beliefs, physical or mental conditions, family, social, or cultural background, or sexual orientation; shall make reasonable effort to assure that a student is protected from harassment or discrimination on these grounds; and may not engage in a course of conduct that would encourage a reasonable student to develop a prejudice on these grounds;
- (7) may not use professional relationships with students for private advantage or gain;
- (8) shall keep in confidence information that has been obtained in the course of providing professional service, unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law;
- (9) shall accord just and equitable treatment to all students as they exercise their educational rights and responsibilities.

(c) In fulfilling obligations to the public, an educator:

- (1) repealed 10/25/2000;
- (2) shall take reasonable precautions to distinguish between the educator's personal views and those of any educational institution or organization with which the educator is affiliated;
- (3) shall cooperate in the statewide student assessment system established under 4AAC 06.710-4 ACC 06.790 by safeguarding and maintaining the confidentiality of test materials and information;
- (4) repealed 10/25/2000;
- (5) may not use institutional privileges for private gain, to promote political candidates, or for partisan political activities;
- (6) may not accept a gratuity, gift, or favor that might influence or appear to influence professional judgment, and may not offer a gratuity, gift, or favor to obtain special advantage;

- (7) may not knowingly withhold or misrepresent material information in communicating with the school board regarding a matter before the board for its decision; and
- (8) may not use or allow the use of district resources for private purposes not related to the district programs and operation.
- (d) In fulfilling obligations to the profession, an educator:
 - (1) may not, on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, marital status, political or religious beliefs, physical condition, family, social or cultural background, or sexual orientation, deny to a colleague a professional benefit, advantage, or participation in any professional organization, and may not discriminate in employment practice, assignment, or personnel evaluation;
 - (2) shall accord just and equitable treatment of all members of the profession in the exercise of their professional rights and responsibilities;
 - (3) may not use coercive means or promise special treatment in order to influence professional decisions of colleagues;
 - (4) may not sexually harass a fellow employee;
 - (5) shall withhold and safeguard information acquired about colleagues in the course of employment, unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose;
 - (6) shall provide, upon the request of the affected party, a written statement of specific reasons for recommendations that led to the denial of increments, significant changes in employment, or termination of employment;
 - (7) may not deliberately misrepresent the educator's or another's professional qualifications;
 - (8) repealed 10/25/2000;
 - (9) may not falsify a document, or make a misrepresentation on a matter related to licensure, employment evaluation, test results, or professional duties;
 - (10) may not intentionally make a false or malicious statement about a colleague's professional performance or conduct;
 - (11) may not intentionally file a false or malicious complaint with the commission;
 - (12) may not seek reprisal against any individual who has filed a complaint, provided testimony or given other assistance in support of a complaint filed with the commission;
 - (13) shall cooperate fully and honestly in investigations and hearings of the commission;
 - (14) repealed 10/25/2000;
 - (15) may not unlawfully breach a professional employment contract;
 - (16) shall conduct professional business through appropriate channels;
 - (17) may not assign tasks to unqualified personnel;
 - (18) may not continue in or seek professional employment while unfit due to (A) use of drugs or alcohol that impairs the educator's competence or the safety of students or colleagues; (B) physical or mental disability that impairs the educator's competence or the safety of students or colleagues;
 - (19) may not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political or citizenship rights and responsibilities

3AS 14.20.030. Causes For Revocation and Suspension.

- (a) The commissioner or the Professional Teaching Practices Commission may revoke or suspend a certificate only for the following reasons:
 - (1) incompetency, which is defined as the inability or the unintentional or intentional failure to perform the teacher's customary teaching duties in a satisfactory manner;
 - (2) immorality, which is defined as the commission of an act which, under the laws of the state, constitutes a crime involving moral turpitude;
 - (3) substantial noncompliance with the school laws of the state or the regulations of the department; or
 - (4) upon a determination by the Professional Teaching Practices Commission that there has been a violation of ethical or professional standards or contractual obligations.
- (b) The commissioner or the Professional Teaching Practices Commission shall revoke for life the certificate of a person who has been convicted of a crime, or an attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit a crime, involving a minor under AS 11.41.410 - 11.41.460 or a law or ordinance in another jurisdiction with elements similar to an offense described in this subsection.
- (c) The commissioner or the Professional Teaching Practices Commission shall request the chief administrative law judge (AS 44.64.020), to appoint an administrative law judge employed by the office of administrative hearings to preside at a hearing conducted under this section. AS 44.64.060 and 44.64.070 do not apply to the hearing.

4 AS 14.20.170. Dismissal.

- (a) A teacher, including a teacher who has acquired tenure rights, may be dismissed at any time only for the following causes:
 - (1) incompetency, which is defined as the inability or the unintentional or intentional failure to perform the teacher's customary teaching duties in a satisfactory manner;
 - (2) immorality, which is defined as the commission of an act that, under the laws of the state, constitutes a crime involving moral turpitude; or

- (3) substantial noncompliance with the school laws of the state, the regulations or bylaws of the department, the bylaws of the district, or the written rules of the superintendent.
- (b) A teacher may be suspended temporarily with regular compensation during a period of investigation to determine whether or not cause exists for the issuance of a notification of dismissal according to AS 14.20.180.
- (c) A teacher who is dismissed under this section is not entitled to a plan of improvement under AS 14.20.149.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SENATOR BETTYE DAVIS

Senator_Bettye_Davis@legis.state.ak.us
www.akdemocrats.org

Memorandum

To: Senator Fred Dyson, Chair
Senate HESS Committee

From: Senator Bettye Davis

Date: April 27, 2005

RE: Request for Hearing, SB 48

I respectfully request a hearing for Senate Bill 48, Psychological Evaluation/Treatment For Students.

I have attached a newer CS that I feel covers the concerns of those I have spoken to over the course of the interim and the beginning of this year.

24-LS0208VF
Mischel
4/18/05

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 48()

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATOR DAVIS

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to recommending or refusing psychotropic drugs or certain types of**
2 **evaluations or treatments for children."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1. AS 14.30 is amended by adding new sections to read:**

5 **Article 2A. Psychiatric and Behavioral Evaluations and Treatments.**

6 **Sec. 14.30.171. Prohibited actions.** Except as provided in AS 14.30.172 -
7 14.30.176, school personnel may not, unless otherwise authorized by law,

8 (1) recommend to a parent ~~or~~ guardian that a child take or continue to
9 take a psychotropic drug as a condition for attending a public school;

10 (2) require that a child take or continue to take a psychotropic drug as a
11 condition for attending a public school;

12 (3) conduct a psychiatric ~~or~~ behavioral health evaluation of a child;

13 (4) recommend a specific licensed physician, psychologist, or other
14 health specialist to a parent or guardian for a child;

1 (5) recommend that a parent or guardian seek or use any of the
2 following:

3 (A) the administration of a psychotropic medication to a child;

4 (B) a psychiatric or psychological treatment for a child; or

5 (C) a psychiatric evaluation of a child; or

6 (6) make a report of suspected child abuse or neglect to authorities,
7 including the Department of Health and Social Services, based solely on the fact that a
8 parent or guardian refuses to consent to

9 (A) the administration of a psychotropic drug to a child;

10 (B) a psychiatric, psychological, or behavioral treatment of a
11 child; or

12 (C) a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation of a child.

13 **Sec. 14.30.172. Communication not prohibited.** Nothing in AS 14.30.171
14 may be construed to prohibit school personnel from

15 (1) communicating information to other school personnel about a
16 child;

17 (2) exercising their authority relating to the placement within the
18 school or readmission of a child who may be or has been suspended or expelled for a
19 violation of a school disciplinary and safety program adopted under AS 14.33.110 -
20 14.33.140; or

21 (3) informing a child's parent or guardian of a perceived behavioral
22 problem of the child as long as the school personnel do not

23 (A) make an assertion or recommendation that violates
24 AS 14.30.171; or

25 (B) attempt to denigrate, criticize, or punish a parent, guardian,
26 or child for a decision made by the parent or guardian for the child to take, not
27 take, or discontinue to take a psychotropic drug.

28 **Sec. 14.30.174. Compliance with federal education law.** (a)
29 Notwithstanding AS 14.30.171(3) and (5), a mental health professional working
30 within a public school system may, for the sole purpose of complying with federal
31 education law,

1 (1) recommend, but not require, a psychiatric or behavioral health
2 evaluation of a child;

3 (2) recommend, but not require, psychiatric, psychological, or
4 behavioral treatment for a child; and

5 (3) conduct a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation of a child
6 with the consent of the child's parent or guardian.

7 (b) In this section,

8 (1) "federal education law" means 20 U.S.C. 1400 - 1487 (Individuals
9 with Disabilities Education Act), 20 U.S.C. 7101 - 7143 (Safe and Drug-Free Schools
10 and Communities Act of 1994), 29 U.S.C. 794 (nondiscrimination under federal grants
11 and programs), and 42 U.S.C. 12101 - 12213 (equal opportunity for individuals with
12 disabilities);

13 (2) "mental health professional" has the meaning given in
14 AS 47.30.915.

15 **Sec. 14.30.176. List of community resources.** Notwithstanding
16 AS 14.30.171(4), a school district may make available to an interested parent or
17 guardian a list of community resources, including mental health services if the list
18 conspicuously states the following: "This list is provided as a resource to you. The
19 school neither recommends nor requires that you use this list or any of the services
20 provided by individuals or entities on the list. It is for you to decide what services, if
21 any, to use and from whom you wish to obtain them."

22 **Sec. 14.30.177. Violations.** (a) A violation of AS 14.30.171 - 14.30.176
23 constitutes substantial noncompliance with a school law of the state for purposes of
24 dismissal of a teacher under AS 14.20.170 or nondetention of a teacher under
25 AS 14.20.175.

26 (b) Each school board shall adopt a bylaw under AS 14.14.100 that provides
27 that violation of AS 14.30.171 - 14.30.176 is grounds for disciplinary action against a
28 person employed by the school district.

29 **Sec. 14.30.179. Definition.** AS 14.30.171 - 14.30.179, "public school"
30 means a school operated by publicly elected or appointed school officials in which the
31 program and activities are under the control of those officials and that is supported by

1

public funds.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SENATOR BETTYE DAVIS

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Senate Bill SB 48

"An Act relating to recommending or refusing psychotropic drugs as a treatment for children and to the evaluation and treatment of children with behavioral or psychological problems."

Sponsor Statement

The use of psychiatric drugs in our nation's schools has more than doubled in the first half of the last decade and continues to escalate. There are documented incidences of highly negative consequences in which psychiatric prescription drugs have been utilized for what are essentially problems of discipline, which may be related to a variety of causation. There is also parental concern regarding the issue of diagnosis and medication and their impact on student achievement.

In recognition of the importance that only physicians should make psychiatric diagnoses of behavioral problems, recommend psychiatric screening for specific behavioral problems, and suggest the use of psychiatric medication for a student, this bill would insure that:

No one but a licensed physician in consultation with the parents or guardian can recommend or prescribe the use of psychotropic drugs.

No public educational facility or employee thereof may deny enrollment in the school or facility for the refusal of his or her parents to place that child on psychotropic drugs.

No parent would be inattened with a formal action or proceeding of neglect for refusal to place a child on psychotropic drugs.

Provisions to allow behavioral, psychological or psychiatric screening by those qualified to do so, with parental consent are preserved.

Communication between school employees on behavioral and learning issues concerning the child are preserved.

24-LS0208VG
Mischel
4/15/05

SENATE BILL NO.

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

BY SENATOR DAVIS

**Introduced:
Referred:**

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to recommending or refusing psychotropic drugs or certain types of
2 evaluations or treatments for children."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 14.30 is amended by adding new sections to read:

5 **Article 2A. Psychiatric and Behavioral Evaluations and Treatments.**

6 **Sec. 14.30.171. Prohibited actions.** Except as provided in AS 14.30.172 -
7 14 30.176, school personnel may not, unless otherwise authorized by law,

8 (1) recommend to a parent or guardian that a child take or continue to
9 take a psychotropic drug as a condition for attending a public school;

10 (2) require that a child take or continue to take a psychotropic drug as a
11 condition for attending a public school;

12 (3) conduct a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation of a child;

13 (4) recommend a specific licensed physician, psychologist, or other
14 health specialist to a parent or guardian for a child;

1 (5) recommend that a parent or guardian seek or use any of the
2 following:

3 (A) the administration of a psychotropic medication to a child;

4 (B) a psychiatric or psychological treatment for a child; or

5 (C) a psychiatric evaluation of a child; or

6 (6) make a report of suspected child abuse or neglect to authorities,
7 including the Department of Health and Social Services, based solely on the fact that a
8 parent or guardian refuses to consent to

9 (A) the administration of a psychotropic drug to a child;

10 (B) a psychiatric, psychological, or behavioral treatment of a
11 child; or

12 (C) a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation of a child.

13 **Sec. 14.30.172. Communication not prohibited.** Nothing in AS 14.30.171
14 may be construed to prohibit school personnel from

15 (1) communicating information to other school personnel about a
16 child;

17 (2) exercising their authority relating to the placement within the
18 school or readmission of a child who may be or has been suspended or expelled for a
19 violation of a school disciplinary and safety program adopted under AS 14.33.110 -
20 14.33.140; or

21 (3) informing a child's parent or guardian of a perceived behavioral
22 problem of the child as long as the school personnel do not

23 (A) make an assertion or recommendation that violates
24 AS 14.30.171; or

25 (B) attempt to denigrate, criticize, or punish a parent, guardian,
26 or child for a decision made by the parent or guardian for the child to take, not
27 take, or discontinue to take a psychotropic drug.

28 **Sec. 14.30.174. Compliance with federal education law.** (a)
29 Notwithstanding AS 14.30.171(3) and (5), a mental health professional working
30 within a public school system may, for the sole purpose of complying with federal
31 education law,

1 (1) recommend, but not require, a psychiatric or behavioral health
2 evaluation of a child;

3 (2) recommend, but not require, psychiatric, psychological, or
4 behavioral treatment for a child; and

5 (3) conduct a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation of a child
6 with the consent of the child's parent or guardian.

7 (b) In this section,

8 (1) "federal education law" means 20 U.S.C. 1400 - 1487 (Individuals
9 with Disabilities Education Act), 20 U.S.C. 7101 - 7143 (Safe and Drug-Free Schools
10 and Communities Act of 1994), 29 U.S.C. 794 (nondiscrimination under federal grants
11 and programs), and 42 U.S.C. 12101 - 12213 (equal opportunity for individuals with
12 disabilities);

13 (2) "mental health professional" has the meaning given in
14 AS 47.30.915.

15 **Sec. 14.30.176. List of community resources.** Notwithstanding
16 AS 14.30.171(4), a school district may make available to an interested parent or
17 guardian a list of community resources, including mental health services if the list
18 conspicuously states the following: "This list is provided as a resource to you. The
19 school neither recommends nor requires that you use this list or any of the services
20 provided by individuals or entities on the list. It is for you to decide what services, if
21 any, to use and from whom you wish to obtain them."

22 **Sec. 14.30.177. Violations.** (a) A violation of AS 14.30.171 - 14.30.176
23 constitutes substantial noncompliance with a school law of the state for purposes of
24 dismissal of a teacher under AS 14.20.170 or nondetention of a teacher under
25 AS 14.20.175.

26 (b) Each school board shall adopt a bylaw under AS 14.14.100 that provides
27 that violation of AS 14.30.171 - 14.30.176 is grounds for disciplinary action against a
28 person employed by the school district.

29 **Sec. 14.30.179. Definition.** In AS 14.30.171 - 14.30.179, "public school"
30 means a school operated by publicly elected or appointed school officials in which the
31 program and activities are under the control of those officials and that is supported by

I

public funds.

Legislation Enacted in States 2002-2004

2002 Legislative Session

State legislatures enacted legislation primarily on Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD) and psychotropic medications at schools for ADD/ADHD. The following is a sample of legislation that passed:

- **Georgia** House Resolution 946 created the Commission on Psychiatric Medication of School-Age children to study and investigate the use of psychiatric medications and their effects on school-age children and provided recommendations for improved oversight of narcotic prescriptions for the state's youth.
- **Illinois** House Bill 3744 (Public Act 02-0663) defined psychotropic and psychostimulant medication and required each school board to adopt and implement a policy that prohibits disciplinary action for the refusal of a student's parent or guardian to administer or consent to administration of psychotropic or psychostimulant medication. The bill does not prohibit school medical staff or professional from recommending that a student be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner or school personnel from consulting with the medical practitioner with the consent of the student's parent or guardian.
- **Virginia** House Bill 90 (Chapter 314) required the state Board of Education to develop and implement policies prohibiting school personnel from recommending the use of psychotropic medications for any student. The policies may not prohibit school health staff, teachers or other school professionals from recommending that a student be evaluated by appropriate medical practitioners or from consulting with such with the written consent of the student's parent.
- **Virginia** House Joint Resolution 122 requested that the State Department of Public Health collect data to determine the prevalence of methylphenidate and amphetamine prescriptions used to treat ADD/ADHD in the Commonwealth.

2003 Legislative Session

Enacted legislation included bills on student use of psychotropic medications and school-based mental health programs. The following is a sample of legislation that passed:

- **Colorado** House Bill 1172 required each school board to adopt a policy prohibiting school personnel from recommending or requiring a student use a psychotropic drug or to test or require a test for a child's behavior without prior written permission from the parent, guardian or child. School personnel are encouraged to discuss the child's behavior with the parent or guardian which may include a suggestion that the parent or guardian speak to an appropriate health care professional.
- **Oregon** Senate Bill 456 (Chapter 485) prohibited K through 12 public school administrators, teachers, counselors, or nurses from recommending that a student seek a prescription for a medication that is prescribed with the intent of affecting or altering the thought processes, mood or behavior of a student.
- **Texas** Senate Bill 491 required the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, the Texas Department of Health, and the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse to conduct a joint assessment, including recommendations for further development of school-based mental health and substance abuse programs.

2004 Legislative Session

The following is a sample of legislation that passed:

- **New Hampshire** House Bill 551 (Chapter 237) established a committee to study the prescription and use of psychotropic drugs, including Ritalin, in childcare centers, preschools and public schools.
- **Illinois** House Bill 307 (Public Act 98-0892) counties may adopt a \$5 mandatory fee where a teen court, peer court, peer jury, youth court or other youth diversion program has been created to pay for the administration and operation of such programs.
- **New Hampshire** House Bill 1397 (Chapter 34) requires the Health Education Review Committee to review the efforts of the New Hampshire Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Assembly in developing a statewide comprehensive plan for youth suicide prevention.



Psychotropic Medications at Schools

Current as of January 3, 2005

States that passed legislation in the 2004 session

New Hampshire passed legislation establishing a committee to study the prescription and use of psychotropic drugs, including Ritalin, in childcare centers, preschools, and public schools, grades K through 12. **Delaware's** House of Representatives adopted Resolution 83 creating a task force to study the patterns of treatment of ADD and ADHD in school-aged children and the role of school personnel in the recommendation process for the use of psychotropic and sympathomimetic medications on school aged children.

Approximately 15 states considered legislation related to psychotropic and sympathomimetic medications and psychiatric treatment for school-age children. Psychotropic medications are drugs that have an altering effect on perception, emotion or behavior. Sympathomimetic drugs produce physiological effects resembling those caused by the activity or stimulation of the sympathetic nervous system. Examples of these drugs include Ritalin, Adderall, Cylert and Dexedrine. These drugs are generally used in the treatment of Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

Below is a list of states that have laws related to psychotropic medications at schools and a chart of states that introduced legislation in the 2004 session. These laws and bills primarily focus on school personnel recommending psychotropic medications for students and recommending medical evaluations for students for suspected behavioral disorders.

States that passed laws prior to the 2004 legislative session

Georgia adopted a resolution to investigate the use of psychotropic medications and their effects on school aged children in the state.

Colorado enacted legislation regarding school board policies covering when personnel may address health care treatment for student behavior issues; requires each school board to adopt a policy prohibiting school personnel from recommending or requiring the use of a psychotropic drug by any student.

Connecticut prohibits school personnel from recommending the use of psychotropic drugs for any child, but does not prohibit recommending a child be evaluated by a medical practitioner or school personnel from consulting with one.

Hawaii adopted two resolutions requesting the departments of health and education research and examine the use and effectiveness of medication for children with behavioral problems.

Illinois requires training of school personnel on the use of psychotropic medications and does not prohibit school medical staff from recommending that a student be evaluated or from consulting with a medical practitioner about a student.

Oregon prohibits K through 12 public school administrators, teachers, counselors or nurses from recommending that a student

seek a prescription for a medication that is prescribed with the intent of affecting or altering the thought processes, mood or behavior of the student.

Texas prohibits school personnel from recommending that a student use a psychotropic drug or suggest any particular diagnosis or use the refusal by a parent to consent to the administration of a psychotropic drug or psychiatric evaluation or examination of a student as grounds, by itself, for prohibiting the child from attending a class or participating in a school-related activity. Does not prohibit a school district employee from recommending that a child be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner.

Virginia directed the Board of Education to develop and implement policies prohibiting school personnel from recommending the use of psychotropic medications for any student.

State's that have introduced legislation in 2004 (includes carryover 2003-2004)

State	Bill Number
Alaska	<p>AK SB 5</p> <p>Would prohibit school personnel from recommending or requiring a child take or continue to take a psychotropic drug as a condition for attending a public school, conducting or recommending a parent or guardian seek psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation of a child, recommending a health specialist to a parent or guardian, recommending the administration of psychotropic medication, or recommending psychological or psychiatric treatment of a child. School personnel may communicate information to other school personnel about a child and may inform a parent or guardian of a perceived behavioral problem.</p>
California	<p>CA AB 1424</p> <p>Specifies that refusal of a parent or guardian of a child to administer or consent to the administration of any psychotropic drug or psychological or psychiatric evaluations or treatments would not constitute a basis for finding that the child should be removed from the custody of the parent or guardian.</p>
Delaware	<p>DE HR 83 (Adopted by the House of Representatives on June 30, 2004)</p> <p>Creates a task force to study the patterns of treatment of ADD and ADHD in school-aged children and the role of school personnel in the recommendation process for the use of psychotropic and sympathomimetic medications on school aged children.</p>
Florida	<p>FL HB 1275 and a section of SB 1578e1</p> <p>Would require that public school district boards prohibit personnel from requiring a student to take any psychotropic or similar mind altering medication as a condition of attending school or receiving educational services. School district personnel would be able to consult or share observations with parents regarding a student's academic performance or behavior or the need for evaluation for special education or related services provided the evaluation is strictly academic and not psychologically or psychiatrically based.</p> <p>FL SB 1140 and HB 223</p> <p>Specifies that parental refusal to administer psychotropic medication to a child shall not constitute grounds for Children and Family Services Department to take a child into custody; would require district school board policies to prohibit personnel working in child care facilities from administering medications to a child without written authorization of the child's parent or guardian except in the event of a medical emergency; and directs school boards to adopt rules prohibiting school board personnel from recommending psychotropic medication for a student, however it would not prohibit school board medical personnel from recommending that a student</p>

	<p>be evaluated or consulting with a medical practitioner with the consent of the student's parent.</p>
Kentucky	<p>KY HJR 58</p> <p>Would request that the Kentucky Department of Education provide education and training to school personnel regarding the use of psychotropic drugs; provide guidelines for school personnel and procedures to follow when recommending a child be evaluated; urges the Cabinet for Families and Children to ensure that a parent's refusal to allow a child to receive psychotropic drugs as part of treatment not be used as sole grounds for taking a child into custody; and requests a study of the issues related to psychotropic drugs.</p>
Massachusetts	<p>MA HB 2227</p> <p>Would prohibit the school committee, any teacher, any counselor or any other agent from requiring a student be placed on a psychotropic drug in order to attend or remain in school. Prohibits the right to recommend or suggest the use of a psychotropic drug for any child.</p>
Michigan	<p>MI HB 4025</p> <p>Would direct the Department of Education to develop and distribute model policy concerning chronic behavior issues and psychotropic medications for pupils. This policy should include, allowing school personnel to discuss a child's behavior with the parent or with parental consent, refer the child for an educational evaluation or appropriate health care provider. Would prohibit a teacher from making a psychological or medical diagnosis of a behavioral condition or disorder or recommending a psychotropic drug.</p>
Mississippi	<p>MS HB 40</p> <p>Would require physicians and psychiatrists who diagnose any child with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) to report the total number of those children to the respective school districts where the children attend school.</p>
New Hampshire	<p>NH HB 551 (Signed by governor June 15, 2004. Chapter 237)</p> <p>Establishes a committee to study the prescription and use of psychotropic drugs, including Ritalin, in childcare centers, preschools, and public schools, grades K through 12.</p>
New York	<p>NY AB 3563</p> <p>Would prohibit school personnel and school districts from suggesting or recommending the use of psychotropic drugs for students.</p> <p>NY AB 5760 and SB 3458</p> <p>Would direct the commissioner of education to establish rules and regulations prohibiting school personnel from recommending psychotropic drugs for children.</p>
Oklahoma	<p>OK HB 2272</p> <p>Would require the board of education to develop and implement policy prohibiting school personnel from recommending the use of psychotropic medication for any student. Would prohibit disciplinary action against the student and prohibit school personnel from making child abuse or neglect report to authorities based solely on the parent or guardian's refusal to administer or consent to the administration of such medications to the student. Would not prohibit teachers or other school personnel from consulting or sharing observations with parents or guardians regarding the</p>

	<p>academic performance or behavior of the student, or regarding the need for evaluation for special education. Would not prohibit a school district from making available to an interested parent or guardian a list of resources and services.</p>
<p>Pennsylvania</p>	<p>PA HB 996</p> <p>Would direct each board of school directors to adopt and implement a policy prohibiting any school personnel from recommending the use of psychotropic drugs for any child. Would not prohibit any staff from recommending that a child be evaluated by appropriate medical practitioner or consulting with a medical practitioner with the consent of the parent's or guardian of the child.</p> <p>PA HB 1016</p> <p>Would prohibit a school official or employee from recommending that a student use any psychotropic or sympathomimetic drugs. Would not prohibit staff from recommending an evaluation of a child by an appropriate medical practitioner or school personnel from consulting with the medical practitioner with the consent of the student's parents.</p>
<p>Tennessee</p>	<p>TN HB 663 and SB 547</p> <p>Would prohibit administration of any psychotropic drug to a student in public elementary or secondary school unless the school has obtained authorization and direction from the student's physician. Would require that the departments of health and education adopt rules and regulations to govern the administration of psychotropic drugs to pupils in public schools.</p> <p>TN HB 708 and SB 635</p> <p>Supports the creation of a statewide task force to discuss and resolve matters relative to the usage of ritalin in schools. Would prohibit a local education agency from recommending the use of psychotropic drugs to treat children in elementary or secondary schools until said task force has been formed and issued a report regarding the use of psychotropic drugs to treat students with behavioral disorders. Would allow a school's medical staff to recommend medical evaluation of a student with the parent's or legal guardian's consent.</p> <p>TN SB 636 and HB 707</p> <p>Would prohibit an employee or person under contract with a local board of education from recommending the use of psychotropic drugs to treat children enrolled in elementary or secondary schools. Would allow a school's medical staff to recommend appropriate medical evaluation of a student with the parent's or legal guardian's consent.</p>
<p>Vermont</p>	<p>VT HB 706</p> <p>Would prohibit public schools from requiring a child to take psychotropic drugs as a condition of attending school; creates an informed consent process for parents or guardians regarding the use of psychotropic drugs prescribed to children; prohibits social and rehabilitation services from taking custody of a child because a parent or guardian refuses to administer such drug to the child; directs the commissioner of health to conduct an annual assessment of the prescribing patterns of psychotropic medications to school-age children and to study the feasibility of creating a statewide pharmacy database.</p> <p>VT SB 30</p>

	<p>Would prohibit schools from requiring that a child take a sympathomimetic medication, such as Ritalin, as a condition of attending school. Would allow a medical inspector or a teacher to recommend that a child be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner; however, a parent or guardian may agree or disagree to allow the child to take the medication.</p>
<p>Washington</p>	<p>WA HB 2571 and SB 6289</p> <p>Would direct public and private schools to implement a policy that prohibits school personnel from recommending the use of psychotropic drugs for any child. They may recommend an evaluation be conducted by a licensed physician if they perceive the child may have a behavioral or psychological problem.</p>

If there are any errors or omissions, please feel free to contact the [Adolescent and School Health Project](#).

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California Initiative

SA2005RFO055

American Family Rights Association

Fair Oaks, Ca **William O. Tower California Director** Sacramento
(916) 342-1700 P.O. Box 1582 Fair Oaks, California. 95628 (916) 966-8578
Www.familyrightsassociation.com wm.tower@sbcglobal.net

Promoting the Fundamental Liberty Rights & Privileges of Families

January 25, 2005

**Honorable Bill Lockyer
Attorney General of California
1300 I Street, Suite 125
Sacramento, CA 94244**

**Attention: Trisha Knight
Initiative Coordinator
HAND DELIVERED**

Dear Attorney General Lockyer:

This is a formal request to your office for a title and summary of the attached proposed initiative, which is supported by the American Family Rights Association.

It is our intention to place the initiative on the first available ballot – hopefully for a general election to be called in November of this year.

This proposed initiative would:

- **Re-establish and affirm basic rights to the family unit – the parent and child.**
- **Provide parents the authority to object to and prevent mental health screening and evaluation of their children in public schools without informed consent.**
- **Prohibit Child Welfare Services or judicial officers from removing a child from the custody of their parent or guardian by virtue of a refusal of the parent to permit psychiatric drugging or treatment of their child.**

There are no financial implications of this proposed initiative. It will not require any State funds to administer or implement. Rather, it affirms parental rights and prohibits the exercise of unlawful authority by state authorities.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

RECEIVED
JAN 25 2005

INITIATIVE COORDINATOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

**William Tower
California Director,
American Family Rights Association
Proponent**

PARENT AND CHILD RIGHTS ACT

Section 1. Title

This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Parent and Child Rights Act."

Section 2. Findings and Declarations

The People of the State of California hereby find and declare all of the following:

1. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the United States Constitution and the California Constitution, each establish and acknowledge the existence of basic human rights and civil rights guaranteed to all persons in our society. Among these are, as stated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, that:

Convinced that the family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children, should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community.

2. However, the State of California, through acts by state school officials in screening and evaluating children for purported "mental disorders," by state and local Child Welfare Services employees by evaluating children for purported "mental disorders," and by state and local family courts, has stripped away and denied basic rights to many citizens. Worse, through the pretense of "protection" of children with psychological and psychiatric evaluation and treatment, these entities have denied basic rights to the most vulnerable persons in our society – our children.

3. Violations of the civil rights and human rights of children and their parents in California have caused considerable destruction to the basic building block of our society, illegally removing children from their parents' homes and their parents' care and nurturing, destroying families, and destroying futures of our children. Children removed to foster care or institutions are many times more likely to be abused and assaulted than those in the care of their own parents. Many children removed to foster care and institutional care are automatically labeled with purported psychiatric disorders and treated with psychiatric drugs.

4. Yet, the practice of psychiatry concedes that it is theoretical, that the purported "mental disorders" listed in psychiatric texts and manuals are purely subjective

evaluations. Psychiatric texts such as the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, and purported psychiatric experts creating the parameters for mental disorders, concede that the existence of any actual mental illness cannot be proven with any medical or objective test. Thus, the designation of hundreds of supposed mental illnesses, including and especially those describing supposed conditions of children such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, are essentially a matter of belief and theory, but are not genuine science. Yet, psychiatric belief and theory has been adopted by California Child Welfare Service agencies, their employees and some courts as the only appropriate philosophy for child rearing. As a result, many parents with philosophical, ethical, religious and common-sense views of life and child rearing which conflict with the beliefs of psychiatry with its emphasis upon psychotropic drugs, have been targeted and they and their children punished for asserting beliefs disparate from psychiatric treatment and psychiatric drugging of our children.

5. However, the psychiatric model may be detrimental and dangerous to the welfare and even the life of the child. Many psychiatric drugs have been shown not only to be ineffective, but, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and numerous studies and reports, a source of a host of deleterious physical and mental side effects including violence, hostility, suicidal and homicidal thoughts and aggressive behavior, drug dependence, and many physical illnesses.

6. Acting outside of any legitimate governmental authority, and in direct contravention of the Bill of Rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution, and international treaties, child protection services and social services employees in California, acting independently and in some cases, in concert with family courts, have removed thousands of children from their homes because their parents disagreed with the provision of dangerous psychiatric drugs to their children. California authorities, viewing parents' beliefs of child rearing antagonistic to psychiatric theory and to constitute a "threat" to the child, have removed thousands of children from the loving care of their parents and siblings solely because of their parents' disagreement with psychiatric practice and the mental illness model theorized by psychiatry.

7. Acting outside of any legitimate governmental authority, and in direct contravention of the Bill of Rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution, and international treaties, employees of public school have implemented psychological and psychiatric screening and evaluation, often without parental consent and typically without genuine informed consent. Such subjective screening and evaluation of children has caused many children to acquire denigrating and damaging labels of mental illness they carry with them for a lifetime, and causing them to receive unnecessary and dangerous psychiatric drugs and treatments.

Section 3. Purpose and Intent.

Section 304.8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is added as follows:

Parent and Child Rights Act

The People of the State of California hereby declare their purpose and intent in enacting this Act to be as follows:

1. To preserve for children and parents of California, basic human rights, and civil rights guaranteed to all persons in our society.
2. To proclaim that the theory and philosophy of modern psychiatry is not senior to the rights of parents to have and rear children and to do so within the context of their own peaceful philosophic, religious and common-sense mores.
3. To provide full and complete due process of law for parents and children within our state.

Section 4. Definitions

Section 304.9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is added as follows:

For the purposes of Parent and Child Rights Act:

“Due process” includes all rights, privileges, immunities and procedures guaranteed to all citizens in accordance with the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, the California Code of Civil Procedure and the California Code of Criminal Procedure, including, but not limited to, a full and fair noticed hearing, cross-examination of witnesses, discovery, habeas corpus, rights against warrantless search and seizure and expedited appeal.

“Child Welfare Services” means all agencies and employees of California state or county or local agencies that perform child protective services or child welfare service, whether designated as that name or not, and social welfare agencies with child protection functions.

“Psychiatric drugs” is defined as any prescription medication intended to affect mental, rather than physical functioning. The definition includes any prescription substance employed to control, manage or in any way affect a

purported mental health condition, disorder and/or syndrome as defined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and/or the Mental Health Disorders section of the International Classification of Diseases. This specifically includes but is not limited to the drug classes known as Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor (SSRI) antidepressants, neuroleptic or anti-psychotic drugs and psychiatric stimulants.

Section 5. Limitations of Child Welfare Services and Other Social Welfare Agencies' Activities

1. Section 300 of the Welfare and Institutions Code describes the several categories of children who fall within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court for the purpose of being adjudged to be a dependant of the Court. One such category, set forth in Section 300(c) of the Welfare and Institutions Code, now states:

“The child is suffering serious emotional damage, or is at substantial risk of suffering serious emotional damage, evidenced by severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal, or untoward aggressive behavior toward self or others, as a result of the conduct of the parent or guardian or who has no parent or guardian capable of providing appropriate care. No child shall be found to be a person described by this subdivision if the willful failure of the parent or guardian to provide adequate mental health treatment is based on a sincerely held religious belief and if a less intrusive judicial intervention is available”

Section 300(c) is amended to delete the first sentence, and to amend the second sentence as follows:

No child shall be found to be a person described by this subdivision if the alleged willful failure of the parent or guardian to provide adequate mental health treatment is based upon the refusal of the parent or guardian to give the child psychiatric medication, or to permit mental health treatment of the child.

2. Section 300(l) of the Welfare and Institutions Code, is added as follows:

No Child Welfare Services employee may institute any formal action or proceeding against a parent and/or guardian as defined in Section 300 of the Welfare and Institutions Code for the refusal of the parent or guardian to give the child psychiatric medication or refusal to permit psychological or psychiatric screening, evaluation or treatment.

2. Section 300(m) of the Welfare and Institutions Code, is added as follows:

Violation of Section 300(l) by any Child Welfare Service official or employee shall be a misdemeanor, conviction of which shall be subject to a fine for each violation of no less than \$500 and no more than \$5,000, and imprisonment for a period of 15 to 30 days.

Section 6. Limitations of Public Educational Facilities and Employees

Section 285 is added to Article 12, Chapter 2, Part 1, Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education Code as follows:

285(a). No public educational facility or employee thereof may require any child enrolled in the school or facility to receive mental health, psychological or psychiatric screening, evaluation or treatment, without informed written consent of both parents or guardians of the child.

285(b) "Informed written consent" for mental health screening, evaluation or treatment, means written consent only after full written disclosure including, but limited to the nature, details, scope and purpose of any screening, evaluation or treatment, including identification of the person or persons who would perform such screening or evaluation, the proponent of the screening or evaluation procedure, to whom the child could be referred as a result of the screening, and the sources of funds for the screening or evaluation.

285(c) Violation of Section 285(a) or (b) by any public school official or employee shall be a misdemeanor, conviction of which shall be subject to a fine for each violation of no less than \$500 and no more than \$5,000, and imprisonment for a period of 15 to 30 days.

Section 7. Limitations of Orders by Judicial Authorities

Section 304.7 (d) is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code as follows:

(1) No court or judicial officer may order the removal of a parent or legal guardian from custody and control of a child based upon a refusal of the parent or guardian to give psychiatric drugs to the child.

(2) No court or judicial officer may remove a parent or legal guardian from custody and control of a child based upon a refusal of the

parent or guardian to permit psychological or psychiatric screening, evaluation or treatment.

(3) No court or judicial officer may remove a parent or legal guardian from custody and control of a child without full and fair due process of law, including, if the parent chooses, a public proceeding.

Section 8. Conflicts of Law

To the extent any part of this Act contravenes or conflicts with any other law respecting the rights of parents to control upbringing of their child, the purported need for psychiatric treatment or medication, the authority of Child Welfare Services, or involuntary commitment laws affecting children, this Act controls.

Section 9. Amendment or Supplementation

This Act shall be broadly construed to accomplish its purposes. The provisions of this Act may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Legislature so long as such amendments are consistent with and further the intent of this Act. The Legislature may by majority vote add provisions to clarify procedures and terms including the procedures herein, location of the statutes in the California Code, and pass specific statutes to effectuate the purposes stated herein.

Section 10. Constitutionality

If any provision of this Act is held to be unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect the validity of any other provision.

Section 11. Retroactivity

The rights guaranteed herein shall be retroactive with respect to any pending action or proceeding. The penalties for violations of this Act shall not be retroactive.

Section 12. Effective date

The provisions of this Act shall be effective immediately upon passage thereof by the people.

Medical Research



The Center for
Health and Health
Care in Schools

The School of Public
Health & Health Services

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Psychotropic Drugs and Children Use, Trends, and Implications for Schools

Revised December 2004

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FDA Launches a Strategy to Strengthen Safeguards for Children Treated with Antidepressant Medications⁷

What the research tells us

Background

The safe and effective use of medications for the treatment of certain medical conditions and illnesses has enabled many children to attend school and achieve academic success.¹ In medical practice, widespread acceptance of drug therapy for behavioral disorders has facilitated diagnosis and treatment of these conditions in ambulatory care.²

Recent increases in the use of psychotropic medications by children and adolescents, limited information on the benefits of these therapies for children, and concerns about the adverse consequences of certain drugs have prompted the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to revise their guidance for prescribers and patients. Because some of these drugs will be brought to school for administration during the school day, the Center has developed this fact sheet to summarize key information on the topic.

Please see details of new FDA safeguards on the next page of this Fact Sheet

Emotional and Behavioral Health Problems Among Children

- Of the population ages 9 - 17, an estimated 21 percent experience the signs and symptoms of a *DSM-IV* disorder in the course of the year, 11 percent experience significant impairment, and 5 percent experience extreme emotional impairment.³
- Results of a national survey of pediatricians showed that 19 percent of pediatric visits involved a psychosocial problem requiring attention or intervention. Psychosocial problems are the most common chronic condition for pediatric visits, eclipsing asthma and heart disease.²
- Almost 5 million children 3 - 17 years of age (8%) have been identified as having a learning disability (such as dyslexia). An estimated 4 million children (6%) have been identified as having attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Ten percent of boys had a learning disability, compared with 6 percent of girls; 10 percent of boys had ADHD compared with 4 percent of girls.⁴
- The combined prevalence of anxiety disorders is higher than that of all other mental disorders of childhood and adolescence. The 1-year prevalence in children ages 9 - 17 is 13 percent.⁵
- Depression estimates vary but a recent report indicates that depression is present in 1 percent of children and 5 percent of adolescents at any given time. Before puberty, boys and girls are at equal risk for depression, after puberty onset the rate of depression is twice as high for girls.⁵
- Conduct disorder, or oppositional defiant disorder, affects 1 to 4 percent of 9- to 17-year-olds. Children with conduct disorder act out their feelings or impulses in destructive ways, including aggression, lying, theft, setting fires, and vandalism, the degree of offense growing more serious over time.⁶

References, cont.

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¹⁰ Treatment for Adolescents with Depression Study (TADS) Team. Fluoxetine, cognitive-behavioral therapy, and their combination for adolescents with depression: Treatment for adolescents with depression study (TADS) randomized controlled trial. *JAMA.* 2004;292(7):807-820.

¹¹ US Food and Drug Administration. Public Health Advisory: Suicidality in children and adolescents being treated with antidepressant medications. October 15, 2004. Accessed at <http://fda.gov/cder/drug/antidepressants/SSRI/PHA200410.htm>. October 15, 2004.

¹² Walkup JT, Labellarte MJ, Riddle MA, Pine DS, Greenhill L, Klein R, et al., for the Research Unit on Pediatric Psychopharmacology. Fluvoxamine for the treatment of anxiety disorders in children and adolescents. *N Engl J Med.* 2001;344(17):1279-1285.

¹³ Medco Health Solutions, Inc. Medco study reveals pediatric spending spike on drugs to treat behavioral problems. 2004. Accessed at <http://www.drugtrend.com/medco/consumer/drugtrend/trends.jsp>

Definition

Psychotropic drugs are those that affect the function, behavior, or experience of the mind.¹⁴ While their exact mechanism of action is not known, psychotropic drugs are thought to act upon the biochemistry of the brain and positively affect thinking mechanisms, emotional control, mood, and other behavioral processes. Included are neuroleptics (such as Haldol), antipsychotics (such as Zyprexa), antidepressants (such as Prozac), stimulants (such as Ritalin), and anti-anxiety agents (such as BuSpar).¹⁴

Treatment: What we know

- The effectiveness of stimulants for short-term treatment of attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder is well documented. A smaller number of studies demonstrates that stimulants or stimulants in combination with behavioral treatments produce long-term improvements when the drug continues to be taken.⁸
- The effectiveness of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and clomipramine [Anafranil] for obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) has been indicated by a number of studies. In 1999, the US Food and Drug Administration approved the use of two SSRIs, fluvoxamine [Luvox] and sertraline [Zoloft], for use in pediatric OCD. Fluoxetine [Prozac] also is approved for use in pediatric OCD.⁸
- The use of antidepressants to treat major depression in children and adolescents has been controversial. Many studies of antidepressant treatment of major depression among adolescents have shown these agents to be only modestly effective.⁹ Additional concerns have focused on possible associations between antidepressant drug use and increases in serious depression and suicide attempts. However, a recent large study by the National Institute of Mental Health concluded that Prozac, which is approved for treatment of depression in pediatric patients, paired with cognitive behavioral therapy (a form of talk therapy) was most successful in helping 71 percent of the study's teenagers overcome depression. The Treatment for Adolescents with Depression Study also showed that Prozac alone was effective in 61 percent of subjects, while talk therapy alone worked with 43 percent. Thirty-five percent of those who received a placebo also improved. Researchers found that patients became significantly less suicidal, no matter which treatment they were given.¹⁰

• FDA Safeguards. On October 4, 2004, the FDA issued a public health advisory announcing that a "black box" warning and expanded cautionary statements will be required on the labels of all antidepressants, to alert prescribers to an increased risk of suicidal thinking and behavior in pediatric patients treated with antidepressant medication. In addition, the FDA cautions that pediatric patients should be "closely observed" for signs of worsening illness, or agitation, irritability, suicidality, and unusual changes in behavior, especially during the initial few months of a course of medication, or at times of dose changes. Patients will also receive a MedGuide with their prescription, informing them of the risks associated with taking antidepressant medication.¹¹

- An NIMH-funded study to test the efficacy and safety of medications commonly used by practitioners to treat children and adolescents (in off-label applications), found that fluvoxamine [Luvox], an SSRI antidepressant approved for treating OCD in children, was both safe and effective in treating social phobia, separation anxiety disorder, and generalized anxiety disorder in children 6 to 17 years of age.¹²
- Data reported by a pharmacy benefits manager indicated that, among children and youth taking at least one medication overall, the percentage taking one or more prescription drugs to treat behavioral and emotional health problems reached nearly 9%.¹³ Another study documented rapid growth in the use of antidepressants.⁹ See table below.

Antidepressant Prescriptions Among Commercially Insured School-Age Children and Youth⁹

	Percent of children & youth prescribed antidepressants		
	1998	2000	2002
Preschool (<5 years)			
Girls	.08	.12	.16
Boys	.14	.14	.23
Elementary (6-10 years)			
Girls	.57	.72	.84
Boys	1.21	1.18	1.60
Middle school (11-14 years)			
Girls	1.44	1.63	2.36
Boys	2.56	2.64	3.12
High school (15-18 years)			
Girls	3.74	4.73	6.36
Boys	3.00	3.49	4.23

Psychotropic Drugs and Children

References, cont.

- ¹⁹ Strock M. *Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)*. Bethesda, MD: National Institute of Mental Health; 2004.
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- ²⁶ *Paxil [package insert]*. Research Triangle Park, NC: GlaxoSmithKline; 2003.
- ²⁷ *Zoloft [package insert]*. New York, NY: Roerig, Division of Pfizer, Inc; 2002.
- ²⁸ *Celexa [package insert]*. St. Louis, MO: Forest Pharmaceuticals, Inc; 2002.
- ²⁹ *Luvox [package insert]*. Marietta, GA: Solvay Pharmaceuticals, Inc; 2000.
- ³⁰ *Anafranil [package insert]*. St. Louis, MO: Mallinckrodt Inc; 2004.

Psychotropic Drugs That May Be Encountered in the Health Suite

- Symptoms associated with diagnosis.
- ** Observed effects of medication (side effects), improper dosing, medication conflicts, missed doses, discontinued medication, or individual adverse reactions.

Drug	Symptoms *	What To Watch For **
Drugs used for ADD and ADHD, including stimulants and non-stimulants		
STIMULANTS		
Ritalin, Methylin, Focalin, Concerta, Metadate. (methylphenidate in various forms for administration)	Inattention, distractibility, agitation, behavior problems Impulsiveness; hyperactivity ¹⁹	Nervousness, insomnia, decreased appetite, weight loss, headaches, stomachaches, skin rash, jitteriness, and social withdrawal. ²¹
Adderall, Dexedrine (amphetamine and dextroamphetamine in various forms)	Symptoms of inattention include making careless mistakes, lack of sustained attention, not listening, failing to finish tasks, poor organization, failing to follow directions, avoiding tasks requiring sustained mental effort, forgetting, losing things, and being easily distracted. ^{19, 20}	Rare adverse events can include tachycardia, blood pressure changes, nausea, dizziness, and palpitations. ²²
Cylert (pemoline)	Symptoms of hyperactivity and impulsiveness include at least six of the following: fidgeting or squirming, leaving the seat, talking excessively, running or climbing at inappropriate times, difficulty with quiet activities, inability to wait for a turn, blurting out answers, and interrupting others. ^{19, 20}	Overdose is characterized by vomiting, agitation, tremors, muscle twitching, convulsions, hallucinations, delirium, sweating, and cardiac arrhythmias. Contact a poison control center. ²⁰
	Some patients have more symptoms of hyperactivity and impulsiveness while others have more symptoms of inattentiveness. Some patients have all 3 types of symptoms. ^{19, 20}	
NON-STIMULANT		
Strattera (atomoxetine)	Symptoms of ADD and ADHD, above	Headache, nasal symptoms; nausea, vomiting, and stomach pain. dizziness, tiredness; mood swings. ²¹ Irritability insomnia, sedation; blood pressure effects. ²¹ Weight loss may occur early, followed by weight gain. ²¹

SSRI Antidepressants for depression, mood disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorder

Prozac (fluoxetine) This is the only SSRI currently FDA-approved for use with depression in pediatric populations. Prozac also is approved for pediatric OCD ²⁵	Depression —Prominent and relatively persistent depressed mood that usually interferes with daily functioning, and includes at least five of the following nine symptoms: depressed mood; loss of interest in usual activities; significant change in weight and/or appetite; insomnia or hypersomnia; psychomotor agitation or retardation; increased fatigue; feelings of guilt or worthlessness; slowed thinking or impaired concentration; a suicide attempt or suicidal ideation. ²⁴ Obsessive-compulsive disorder —Recurrent and persistent ideas, thoughts, impulses, or images (obsessions) that are ego-dystonic and/or repetitive, purposeful, and intentional behaviors (compulsions) that are recognized by the person as excessive or unreasonable. ²⁴ Panic disorder —Occurrence of unexpected panic attacks, and associated concern about having additional attacks, worry about the implications or consequences of the attacks, and/or a significant change in behavior related to the attacks. ²⁴	Anxiety, nervousness, insomnia. Mania, agitation, decreased appetite. Rash or hives; thoughts of suicide, attempted suicide, or actual suicide; in rare cases, seizure. ^{21, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30}
Paxil (paroxetine), Zoloft (sertraline), Celexa (citalopram), Luvox (fluvoxamine maleate, generic), approved for pediatric OCD ²⁹		
Anafranil (clomipramine), approved for pediatric OCD ³⁰		

A recent public health advisory from the FDA cautions that patients beginning treatment with antidepressant medication—or having their dose adjusted up or down—should be closely observed for any worsening of the illness, as well as agitation, irritability, suicidality (suicidal thinking or behavior), and any unusual changes in behavior.¹¹

Psychotropic Drugs and Children

References, cont.

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- ²³ National Library of Medicine Medline Plus. Propranolol (Inderal) Drug Information. 2003. Accessed at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginfo/medmaster/a682607.html>
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Drug	Symptoms *	What To Watch For **
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Other psychotropic drugs used to manage ADD/ADHD, anxiety, or depression

BuSpar (buspirone)	Symptoms of anxiety: shakiness, jumpiness, trembling, tension, muscle aches, fatigability; inability to relax, twitching, fidgeting, restlessness, easy to startle. Also sweating, heart pounding; apprehensiveness; vigilance; Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD). ²¹	Dizziness, nausea, headache, nervousness, lightheadedness, and excitement; slowness or sedative effect. ²¹ Agitation, anxiety, insomnia; hypertension; possible hallucinations or delusions. Weight loss. Dose-related risk of seizure. ²²
Wellbutrin, Zyban (bupropion)	Depression, as defined above ²²	
Inderal (propranolol)	Anxiety, nervous tension; panic attacks. Aggressive behavior	Dizziness, insomnia, excessive tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, rash, diarrhea; difficulty breathing, sore throat, unusual bleeding, swelling of feet or hands, slow heartbeat, chest pain. ²³
Effexor (venlafaxine)	Depression, as defined above	Dizziness, drowsiness; trouble with sleep, difficulty breathing, cold hands / feet, hallucinations, irregular heartbeat; hypertension. In rare cases, fever, depression. ^{21, 24}

Atypical Antipsychotics used in psychotic disorders and dementia

Risperdal (risperidone), Clozaril (clozapine), Zyprexa (olanzapine), Seroquel (quetiapine)	Indicated for schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, mania; the drugs have not been tested in children but may be prescribed off-label for certain cases with multiple conditions occurring together.	Hyperglycemia, diabetes mellitus; hypotension; cognitive and motor impairments. Rare: serious cardiac and neuromuscular effects. ²⁵
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Mood Stabilizers used for bipolar disorder and mania

Lithobid, Lithostat (lithium carbonate); Depakote, Depakene (valproate)	Severe changes in mood—extremely irritable to overly silly—overly inflated self-esteem; increased energy, decreased need for sleep; talkativeness, distractibility; hypersexuality; increased goal-directed activity or agitation. ²⁶	Nausea, drowsiness, dizziness, vomiting, abdominal pain; headache; tremor. Severe abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting may be symptomatic of rare but severe pancreatitis and liver disease. ²⁷ Do not take aspirin with Depakote.
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Drugs used with eating disorders, specifically bulimia nervosa and binge-eating disorder, occasionally in anorexia nervosa, after weight regain

Prozac (fluoxetine) Other SSRIs or SNRIs may be used	Bulimia nervosa —Recurrent episodes of binge eating, followed by forced purging through self-induced vomiting, or use of laxatives, diuretics, enemas, or other medications; fasting; excessive exercise. ²⁸ Binge-eating disorder —Uncontrolled eating (often rapidly and in great quantities) without forced purging or compensating behavior. ²⁸ Anorexia nervosa —Abnormal restriction of eating due to intense fear of gaining weight or becoming fat; resistance to maintaining weight at or above a minimally normal weight for the age and height. ²⁸	Denial of illness, refusal to maintain treatment; may require hospitalization. ²⁸ Side effects: Impaired judgment, thinking, motor skills; anxiety, nervousness, insomnia; mania; agitation; decreased appetite; rash or hives; seizure; thoughts of suicide, attempted suicide, or actual suicide. ^{11, 25} In anorexia, psychotropic medication used only after weight regain established. ²⁸
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References, cont.

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- ¹⁷ Johnston LD, O'Malley PM, Bachman JG, Schulenberg JE. *Ecstasy use falls for second year in a row, overall teen drug use drops* [press release]. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan News and Information Services; December 19, 2003. Accessed at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org>, June 4, 2004.
- ¹⁸ AAP Policy Statement—Guidelines for the Administration of Medication in School. *Pediatrics*. 2003;112(3):697-699.

Schools and Medication Administration

- 37 states and the District of Columbia have statutes, regulations, and/or mandatory or recommended policies addressing medication administration at school.¹⁵
- A US General Accounting Office survey reported that 90% of the schools it had surveyed received district regulations or policies regarding the administration of prescription medications.¹⁵
- Most schools report keeping medications in a locked space.¹⁵ 74% of schools report having a medical supply cabinet with a lock.¹⁶ A recent study found that 96% of schools report that students are observed when ADHD medications are administered.¹⁵ In 2003, the annual prevalence of illegal use of Ritalin was reported as 2.6% among 8th graders, 4.1% among 10th graders, and 4.0% among 12th graders.¹⁷
- In response to Congressional concerns regarding the diversion or abuse of stimulant medications (e.g., Ritalin) in school, a federal agency conducted a study and concluded that schools had identified few incidents of abuse or diversion.¹⁵

Who Dispenses Medications at School?¹⁵

Personnel	Percent approved to administer attention disorder medication*	Percent most often administering attention disorder medications**
Nurse	75	59
Other health care personnel	13	7
Principal	32	2
Teacher	12	2
Other, non-health care personnel	51	28
Students self-administer	6	1

* The column does not total 100% because more than one person may be approved to dispense medication
** The column total does not equal 100% because of rounding.

Role of Schools: What parents and school staff need to know^{1, 18}

- Know the policies of your state and local governments as well as school board regarding the administration of medications in school, whether psychotropic medication or other.
- Learn about the drugs being administered to students—at home and at school—whether school staff are doing the dosing or not.
- Get to know the resources on pediatric antidepressants offered by the US FDA, especially those available on the FDA Web site, and be aware of public health advisories issued by the agency. This information is available at <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/antidepressants/default.htm>.
- Make yourself aware of the possible side effects of the drugs being administered; learn to recognize symptoms of missed doses or overdose.
- Have an emergency plan for each student taking psychotropic medications, in case there is ever a need to use one.

The Five Rights of medication administration

- **The right patient**
- **Receives the right drug**
- **In the right dose**
- **By the right route**
- **At the right time.**

References, cont.

- ¹⁹ US Food and Drug Administration. FDA Proposed Medication Guide: About using antidepressants in children or teenagers. October 21, 2004. Accessed at <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/antidepressants/SSRI/MedicationGuide.htm>, November 10, 2004.

Role of Schools: What school staff needs to do ^{1, 11, 18, 39}

- Keep medications in a locked cabinet (or a locked refrigerator) in a secure place.
- Require that medications be delivered to school in the original prescription container, bearing the student's name, the dosing and frequency, the physician's name, a copy of the package insert, and a copy of the MedGuide, now to be included with all prescriptions for antidepressants.
- Ask parents to notify the school when dosing begins, when any changes or adjustments are made to dosing, or when medication is changed or discontinued. These are the times when the child or adolescent is most likely to experience changes or additional effects of the medication.
- Whenever possible, talk with the prescribing physician directly, to maximize accuracy. If you observe any of the behavioral warning signs—worsening illness, or agitation, irritability, suicidality, and unusual changes in behavior—contact the physician or parent immediately.
- Keep careful records of all administration of medication. Some schools use a signature and log form, others track administration with a computer program.
- Safeguard the privacy of students and protect them from any stigma that may be associated with the administration of medications during school hours.

Resources

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016-3007
202-966-7300
www.aacap.org

Bright Futures
The American Academy of Pediatrics
141 Northwest Point Boulevard
Eli Lilly Building, IL 60007-1098
847-434-4000
<http://brightfutures.aap.org/web/>

American Psychiatric Association
1000 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1825
Arlington, VA 22207-3901
703-907-7300
www.psych.org/

The American Psychiatric Nurses Association
1555 Wilson Blvd., Suite 515
Arlington, VA 22209
703-243-2443
www.apna.org

American Psychological Association
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242
800-374-2721
800-964-2000
www.apa.org

Attention Deficit Information Network
475 Hillside Avenue
Needham, MA 02194
781-455-9895
www.addinfonetwork.org

Center for Health and Health Care in Schools
The George Washington University
School of Public Health and Health Services
1350 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 505
Washington, DC 20036
202-466-3396
www.healthinschools.org

Healthy Youth Program
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30333
800-311-3435
404-639-3534
<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/index.htm>

Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)
8181 Professional Place, Suite 201
Landover, MD 20785
800-233-4050
www.chadd.org

Learning Disabilities Association of America
4156 Library Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15234
412-341-1515
www.ldaamerica.org

National Association of School Nurses
1416 Park Street, Suite A
Castle Rock, CO 80109
866-627-6767
303-663-2329
www.nasn.org

National Attention Deficit Disorder Association (ADDA)
1788 Second Street, Suite 200
Highland Park, IL 60035
847-432-2332
www.adda.org

National Center for Learning Disabilities
381 Park Avenue South, Suite 1401
New York, NY 10016
888-575-7373
212-545-7510
www.ld.org

National Information Center and Youth with Disabilities (NICHCY)
P.O. Box 1492
Washington, DC 20013
800-695-0285
www.nichcy.org

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
6001 Executive Boulevard
Room 8184, MSC 9663
Bethesda, MD 20892-9663
301-443-4513
www.nimh.nih.gov

US Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-0498
800-872-5327
www.ed.gov

US Food and Drug Administration
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857-0001
888-INFO-FDA (888-463-6332)
<http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/antidepressants/default.htm>

This project was supported by grant number 1R13HS014208 from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and by a grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.



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December 2004

Federal Legislation

News from the
Committee on Education and the Workforce
John Boehner, Chair

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 21, 2003

CONTACTS: Alexa Marrero or
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House Overwhelmingly Votes to Protect the Rights of Parents and Children, Ensure Medication is not Forced on Students

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote to protect the rights of parents and students, the U.S. House of Representatives today approved the Child Medication Safety Act (H.R. 1170), legislation that will ensure no parent is coerced into medicating a child in order for that child to attend school. The legislation, authored by Rep. Max Burns (R-GA), was approved by a vote of 425-1.

The bill requires states, as a condition of receiving federal education funds, to establish policies and procedures prohibiting school personnel from requiring a child to take medication in order to attend school. The legislation aims to ensure that no parent is forced to choose between their child receiving educational services, and being forced to medicate their child against their own judgment.

While the legislation protects the rights of parents and students, and prevents inappropriate medicating of children that can have a devastating effect on student health and well-being, it also carefully protects appropriate communication between parents and school personnel. The bill includes strong safeguards to preserve the parent-teacher communication that plays an important role in fostering strong academic achievement for children.

"The Child Medication Safety Act is straightforward, sensible legislation that aims to remedy this problem facing parents across the nation. This bipartisan bill is carefully crafted to preserve communication between school personnel and parent, but also protect parents from being coerced into placing their child on a drug in order to receive educational services," said Burns. "The goal is simple: empowering parents and protecting our children."

A measure similar to the Burns legislation was included as a non-controversial amendment to the reauthorization of the nation's special education law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), legislation approved by the House on April 30.

"As a former school teacher, I am sympathetic to need to have order in a classroom with as few disruptions as possible. However, it has been my experience that kids will be kids and there will always be children in the classroom who are overactive or inattentive," noted Speaker of the House J. Dennis Hastert (R-IL). "School personnel should never presume to know the medication needs of a child. Only medical doctors have the ability to determine if a prescription for a psychotropic drug is appropriate for a

child."

"We have heard from numerous parents and grandparents who have been coerced or pressured by school districts into placing their children on medication in order for those children to attend school or receive services," said Rep. John Boehner (R-OH), chairman of the Education & the Workforce Committee. "I recognize the difficulty that children with attention or behavior problems bring to a school, but no one should react by automatically assuming that the child should be on drugs. And certainly an individual without a medical license should not presume to understand the severity of a problem and simply assume that the child would be better off with drugs."

"The diagnosis of a disability or emotional or behavioral problem requires the careful examination by, and discussion with, a licensed medical practitioner," continued Boehner. "This bill protects that dialogue and ensures that parents are not forced to decide between their own preferences and a school official who is acting inappropriately."

A number of states have passed laws preventing school personnel from requiring that parents medicate their child in order to attend school. Connecticut, Minnesota, Illinois, and Virginia have passed such laws, and Georgia, Hawaii, North Carolina, Utah, and Texas have established Commissions or enacted resolutions to investigate this issue or encourage schools to use proven methods of addressing behavior problems instead of relying on medication.

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Press Releases

19-006

108TH CONGRESS

REPORT

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1st Session

108-121

CHILD MEDICATION SAFETY ACT OF 2003

MAY 21, 2003- Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed
Mr. BOEHNER, from the Committee on Education and the Workforce, submitted the following
R E P O R T
[To accompany H.R. 1170]
[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Education and the Workforce, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1170) to protect children and their parents from being coerced into administering psychotropic medication in order to attend school, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Child Medication Safety Act of 2003'.

SEC. 2. REQUIRED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.

(a) **IN GENERAL-** As a condition of receiving funds under any program or activity administered by the Secretary of Education, not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, each State shall develop and implement policies and procedures prohibiting school personnel from requiring a child to obtain a prescription for substances covered by section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812(c)) as a condition of attending school or receiving services.

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION-** Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed to create a Federal prohibition against teachers and other school personnel consulting or sharing classroom-based observations with parents or guardians regarding a student's academic performance or behavior in the classroom or school, or regarding the need for evaluation for special education or related services under section 612(a)(3) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(3)).

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

- (1) CHILD- The term 'child' means any person within the age limits for which the State provides free public education.
- (2) STATE- The term 'State' means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

SEC. 4. GAO STUDY AND REVIEW.

(a) REVIEW- The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of--

- (1) the variation among States in definitions of psychotropic medication as used in regard to State jurisdiction over public education;
- (2) the prescription rates of medications used in public schools to treat children diagnosed with attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and other disorders or illnesses;
- (3) which medications used to treat such children in public schools are listed under the Controlled Substances Act; and
- (4) which medications used to treat such children in public schools are not listed under the Controlled Substances Act, including the properties and effects of any such medications and whether such medications have been considered for listing under the Controlled Substances Act.

(b) REPORT- Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit a report that contains the results of the review under subsection (a).

PURPOSE

H.R. 1170, the Child Medication Safety Act of 2003, addresses the significant concern that parents are being required to obtain a prescription for psychotropic medication for their child in order for the child to attend school or receive services. The bill protects parents from being forced by school personnel into medicating their child's under duress.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Subcommittee hearing

On Tuesday, May 6, 2003, the Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Education Reform, held a hearing in Washington, D.C. on 'Protecting Children: The Use of Medication in Our Nation's Schools and H.R. 1170, the Child Medication Safety Act of 2003'. The purpose of this hearing was to gather information exploring the prevalence of children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), the appropriate role of prescription medication, and the concern that some school officials are coercing parents to place their child on a prescription for psychotropic medication in order to attend school. Testifying before the Subcommittee were the Honorable Katherine Bryson, State Representative in the Utah House of Representatives from Orem, Utah; Dr. William Carey, MD, Director of Behavioral Pediatrics at

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA; and Dr. Lance Clawson, MD, Private Psychiatrist from Cabin John, Maryland.

Legislative action

On March 11, 2003, Representative Max Burns (R-GA) introduced H.R. 1170, the Child Medication Safety Act. This legislation would require States receiving federal education funds to set up policies and procedures prohibiting school personnel from requiring children to take drugs listed on Schedule II of the Controlled Substances Act in order to attend school or receive services.

On May 15, 2003, the Committee on Education and the Workforce considered H.R. 1170 in legislative session and reported it favorably, as amended, to the House of Representatives, by voice vote. The Committee considered three amendments and adopted the following two amendments.

The Committee adopted by voice vote an amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Mr. Burns. The substitute expands the list of drugs covered by the bill to include all drugs covered under the Controlled Substances Act. The substitute also added a provision that allows

school personnel to consult with parents regarding classroom-based observations about the child's academic performance and behavior in the classroom while confirming that teachers and other school personnel continue to be able to refer children for evaluation as provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The Committee adopted by voice vote an amendment offered by Mrs. Musgrave requiring a GAO study to examine the use of psychotropic medication in schools and to report on whether such medications are listed under the Controlled Substances Act and the effect of non-scheduled medications. The study will provide a current review of all definitions States are using for psychotropic medications, what medications are being used in schools, and the prevalence of their use.

SUMMARY

H.R. 1170, the Child Medication Safety Act, requires States that receive any federal education funds to develop and implement policies and procedures that would prohibit school personnel from requiring a child to obtain a prescription for a controlled substance in order to attend school.

COMMITTEE VIEWS

The Child Medication Safety Act of 2003 requires States, as a condition of receiving Federal education funds, to establish policies and procedures prohibiting school personnel from requiring a child to take medication in order to attend school. Only medical personnel have the ability to determine if a prescription for a psychotropic drug is appropriate for a child.

Testifying before the Subcommittee on Education Reform on May 6, 2003, Dr. William Carey stated that:

In the last two decades the United States has experienced a great increase in the diagnosis of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and its treatment with stimulants. Not only child health professionals but now also a wide variety of unqualified persons, such as preschool teachers and acquaintances, are freely offering the diagnosis and confidently urging parents to accept their judgment and obtain drug treatment, such as methylphenidate (Ritalin), for the child. . . . This chaotic situation urgently requires intervention at several levels, including the Federal government.

The Committee has been made aware of situations where parents have voiced concern that local educational agency officials have required them to place children on psychotropic medication in order to attend school or receive services. The Committee feels that school officials should not presume to know what medication a child needs, or if the child even needs medication. Representative Katherine Bryson testified to the Subcommittee on Education Reform that:

[S]chool personnel faced with children who often have not been properly taught to read, who may be coming to school on a breakfast of sugar or no breakfast at all, who could be affected by lead, mercury or other toxic substances--a plethora of explainable reasons--are assessing them in the classroom as having a 'learning disorder' or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). From here, parents are being coerced into drugging their child with threats of the child's expulsion or charges of medical neglect by Child Protective Services against the parents who refuse to give or take their child off a psychiatric drug.

The Committee believes that only medical personnel have the ability to determine if a prescription for a psychotropic drug is appropriate for a child or if medication is appropriate at all.

Accordingly the bill requires States, as a condition of receiving any Federal education funds, to establish policies and procedures prohibiting school personnel from requiring a parent to obtain a prescription for their child for drugs listed under the Controlled Substances Act in order to attend school or receive services. The Controlled Substances Act regulates the manufacture and distribution of narcotics, stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens, anabolic steroids, and chemicals used in the illicit production of controlled substances. The Controlled Substances Act places all regulated substances into one of five schedules. This placement is based upon a substance's medicinal value, harmfulness, and potential for abuse or addiction. Ritalin is listed on Schedule II of the Controlled Substances Act, and drugs are placed on that Schedule when: (A) The drug or other substance has a high potential for abuse; (B) The drug or other substance has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States or a currently accepted medical use with severe restrictions; or (C) Abuse of the drug or other substances may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence.

Psychotropic drugs, such as Ritalin, can be beneficial to some individuals when properly diagnosed and the medication is properly administered and monitored. In testifying to the Subcommittee on Education Reform, Dr. Lawrence Clawson stated 'research clearly demonstrates that medication can be an effective part of treatment for ADHD.' The Committee recognizes the validity of that research, but is concerned that too often the easy answer of medication is utilized as a response for too many children. As Dr. Carey noted, treatment is improved by educational as well as medical interventions.

The Committee also wants to stress the importance of open and effective communication between the parent and school officials (including teachers) regarding the needs of the child as a whole. In no way does the Committee intend for this legislation to stifle appropriate conversation between school officials and parents about the behavior and academic achievement of the child. School personnel spend many hours a day with a child and are able to observe a variety of situations and behaviors. When parents seek to discuss their child with a teacher or school official, school personnel should continue to be free to discuss their observations with the parent to ensure that the parent has sufficient information to make appropriate decisions about their child's medical needs. However, the Committee cautions that such discussion should be mutual consulting conversations that describe and identify areas of concern, but which are not followed by recommendations of school personnel that would be construed as a medical diagnosis or condition of attending school.

The Committee has heard from many parents, teachers, and national organizations that feel that there must continue to be open lines of communication between school personnel and parents about the academic, behavioral, and health related needs of children. The Committee shares the concern of those organizations, but feels that this legislation walks a clear and carefully crafted line of ensuring that such communication can take place, while protecting parents from being coerced by school officials to place their child on a psychotropic drug in order for

the child to attend school or receive services.

The Committee recognizes that there is a need for greater information on this topic, and includes in the bill a requirement that the GAO issue a report examining the use of psychotropic medication in schools and to report on whether such medications are listed under the Controlled Substances Act and the effect of any non-scheduled medications. The study will provide a current review of all definitions States are using for psychotropic medications, what medications are being used in schools, and the prevalence of their use.

This is an important study that will help provide greater information to Congress and State and local educational agencies, as well as medical professionals, to improve the understanding of the types of medications that exist to treat children with attention deficit disorder, attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder, and other disorders or illnesses.

Summary

In recent decades, there has been a growing number of children diagnosed with attention deficit disorder (ADD) or attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and then treated with medications such as Ritalin or Adderall. In many of these cases, school personnel freely offer diagnoses for these disorders and urge parents to obtain drug treatment for the child. Sometimes officials attempt to force parents into medicating their child in order for the child to continue going to school.

H.R. 1170 aims to remedy this significant problem. The goal of this Act is straightforward. It would require States to establish policies and procedures prohibiting school personnel from requiring a child to take medication in order to attend school. At the same time, this bill carefully preserves the teacher-parent communication that is essential to fostering strong academic achievement for children. The Committee believes that this bill takes important steps to protect children, and their parents, and sets up a good standard for States to follow.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short Title. Establishes the short title of the act to be the 'Child Medication Safety Act of 2003.'

Section 2. Required Policies and Procedures. Establishes required policies and procedures prohibiting the requirement of a prescription, and includes a rule of construction regarding consulting on classroom-based observations.

Section 3. Definitions. Establishes definitions for the terms 'child' and 'state.'

Section 4. GAO Study and Review. Requires the Comptroller General of the United States to review definitions and usage of psychotropic medications.

EXPLANATION OF AMENDMENTS

The Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute is explained in the body of this report.

APPLICATION OF LAW TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 102(b)(3) of Public Law 104-1 requires a description of the application of this bill to the legislative branch. H.R. 1170, the Child Medication Safety Act, requires States that receive any federal education funds to develop

and implement policies and procedures that would prohibit school personnel from requiring a child to obtain a prescription for a controlled substance in order to attend school. The bill does not prevent legislative branch employees coverage under this legislation.

UNFUNDED MANDATE STATEMENT

Section 123 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act (as amended by Section 101(a)(2) of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, P.L. 104-4) requires a statement of whether the provisions of the reported bill include unfunded mandates. H.R. 1170 requires States that receive any federal education funds to develop and implement policies and procedures that would prohibit school personnel from requiring a child to obtain a prescription for a controlled substance in order to attend school. As such, the bill does not contain any unfunded mandates.

CORRESPONDENCE

House of Representatives,

Committee on Education and the Workforce,

Washington, DC, May 20, 2003.

Hon. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TAUZIN: I thank you for your May 20, 2003 letter, regarding H.R. 1170, the 'Child Medication Safety Act of 2003', which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The Education and the Workforce Committee ordered the bill favorably reported on May 15, 2003. I intend to file the report this week. I thank you for working with me regarding an amendment adopted in Committee, offered by Rep. Musgrave, which creates a new Section 4, GAO Study and Review, and requires the General Accounting Office to study various aspects of students on medication in our nation's schools. While the Energy and Commerce Committee holds a jurisdictional interest in Section 4, I appreciate your willingness to work with me in moving H.R. 1170 forward without the need for additional legislative consideration by your Committee.

I agree that this procedural route should not be construed to prejudice the jurisdictional interest and prerogatives of the Committee on Energy and Commerce over these provisions or any other similar legislation and will not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to your Committee in the future.

I thank you for working with me regarding this matter and look forward to continuing our work and cooperation on this bill and similar legislation. This letter and your response will be included in the Committee Report to accompany this bill. If you have questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

John A. Boehner,

Chairman.

**House of Representatives,
Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2003.**

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Chairman, Committee on Education and the Workforce,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BOEHNER: On May 15, 2003, the Committee on Education and the Workforce ordered reported H.R. 1170, the Child Medication Safety Act of 2003. As ordered reported by your Committee, the legislation contains a requirement for a General Accounting Office study that falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Recognizing your interest in bringing this legislation before the House expeditiously, the Committee on Energy and Commerce agrees not to seek a sequential referral of the bill. By agreeing not to seek a sequential referral, the Committee on Energy and Commerce does not waive its jurisdiction over these provisions or any other provisions of the bill that may fall within its jurisdiction. In addition, the Committee on Energy and Commerce reserves its right to seek conferees on any provisions within its jurisdiction which are considered in the House-Senate conference, and asks for your support in being accorded such conferees.

I request that you include this letter as part of the report on H.R. 1170 and as part of the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill by the House.

Sincerely,

W.J. 'Billy' Tauzin,

Chairman.

STATEMENT OF OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII and clause (2)(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee's oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and with respect to requirements of 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for H.R. 1170 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

**U.S. Congress,
Congressional Budget Office,**

Washington, DC, May 16, 2003.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Chairman, Committee on Education and the Workforce,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 1170, the Child Medication Safety Act of 2003.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Donna Wong.

Sincerely,

Barry B. Anderson

(For Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Director).

Enclosure.

H.R. 1170--Child Medication Safety Act of 2003

H.R. 1170 would require states, as a condition of receiving funds, to develop and implement policies and procedures prohibiting school personnel from requiring a child to receive or take controlled substances as a condition of attending school or receiving services.

The bill would result in no significant cost to the federal government and would not affect direct spending or receipts. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Donna Wong. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In accordance with clause (3)(c) of House rule XIII, the goal of H.R. 1170 is to require States that receive any federal education funds to develop and implement policies and procedures that would prohibit school personnel from requiring a child to obtain a prescription for a controlled substance in order to attend school. The Committee expects the Department of Education to comply with H.R. 1170 and implement the changes to the law in accordance with the changes.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Under clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee must include a statement citing the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by H.R. 1170. The Committee believes that the amendments made by this bill, which authorize appropriations for

education assistance, are within Congress' authority under Article I, section 8, clause 1 of the Constitution.

COMMITTEE ESTIMATE

Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs that would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 1170. However, clause 3(d)(3)(B) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act.

Fairbanks Borough Resolution

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By: Bonnie Williams
Introduced: 04/14/05
Adopted: 04/14/05

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
RESOLUTION NO. 2005 - 23

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT ON PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS AND CHILDREN

WHEREAS, the use of drugs to address behavioral problems in children has become alarmingly prevalent; and

WHEREAS, some public schools have endorsed and enforced such usage through recommendations, suggestions and other actions; and

WHEREAS, parents may be coerced into taking actions which are not in the best interest of their child through untrained referrals; and

WHEREAS, recommendations, referrals and suggestions involving behavioral problems should only involve trained personnel, parents and legal guardians, and licensed physicians and psychiatrists; and

WHEREAS, the use of psychotropic drugs may be appropriate to help some children; and

WHEREAS, there are no prohibitions in current state statutes prohibiting coercion by school officials on parents and children involving psychotropic drugs; and

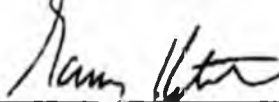
WHEREAS, proactive statutory limitations can prevent before a triggering event and tragedy actually occurs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly supports legislation, which addresses this issue in a manner that leaves open the provision of informational resources, leaves untouched school authority to maintain discipline, but which prohibits coercive actions by schools involving psychotropic drugs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor of the State of Alaska, and members of the Interior Delegation of the Alaska State Legislature.

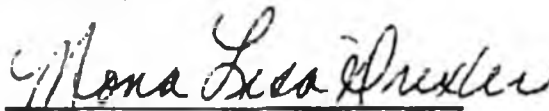
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PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 14th DAY OF APRIL 2005.



Garry Hutchison
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:



Mona Lisa Drexler, CMC
Municipal Borough Clerk

Ayes: Romans, Bartos, Sattley, Rex, Williams, Hopkins, Aldridge, Frank, Hutchison
Noes: None

Proposed
Fairbanks School District Resolution

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION 2005-?

A Resolution Concerning Use of Psychotropic Drugs

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education is aware the use of drugs to address behavioral problems in children has become alarmingly prevalent; and

WHEREAS, there are documented incidents of highly negative consequences in which psychiatric prescription drugs have been utilized for what are essentially problems of discipline which may be related to lack of academic success; and

WHEREAS, some public schools have endorsed and enforced such usage through recommendations, suggestions and other actions; and

WHEREAS, recommendations, referrals and suggestions involving psychiatric services should only involve trained personnel, parents and legal guardians, and children, physicians and psychiatrists; and

WHEREAS, programs such as tutoring, counseling, phonics, writing, guidance, medical examinations, allergy testing, standard discipline procedures, and other proven academic and/or classroom management solutions to resolve behavior, attention, and learning difficulties known to be effective and less costly should be recommended to parents as their options; and

WHEREAS, at times, the use of psychotropic drugs may be appropriate to help some children; and

WHEREAS, there are no prohibitions in current state statutes prohibiting coercion by school officials on parents and children involving psychotropic drugs; and

WHEREAS, proactive statutory limitations can prevent before a triggering event and tragedy actually occurs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education supports legislation, which prohibits coercive actions by schools involving psychotropic drugs

PASSED AND APPROVED: _____

Bill Burrows, President
Board of Education

ATTEST:

Susan Bessette
Secretary to the Board



FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HB048-DHSS-OCS-03-31-06
 () Publish Date: _____
 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____
 Title: REFUSING PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS AND TREATMENTS FOR CHILDREN

RDU: Children's Services
 Component: Front Line Social Workers

Sponsor: DAVIS
 Requester: SENATE (HES)

Component No.: 2305

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: _____
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

SB 48 propose to accomplish three major things: 1) prohibit public schools from recommending mental health services and/or psychotropic medication for students; 2) prohibit public schools from reporting suspected abuse or neglect if the only concern is that a parent or guardian refuses to consent to proper mental health treatment for a child; and, 3) prohibit the DHSS from taking custody based solely on a parent or guardian's refusal to consent to proper mental health treatment for a child. There would be no fiscal impact to the department.

Prepared by: Tammv Sandoval, Deputy Commissioner
 Division: Office of Children's Services
 Approved by: Karleen Jackson, Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Phone 465-3191
 Date/Time 03/31/2006
 Date 03/31/2006

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: SB 48
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Education & Early Development
 Title: An Act relating to recommending or refusing RDU: Teaching & Learning Support
psychotropic drugs . . . Component: Student and School Achievement
 Sponsor: Davis
 Requester: HESS Component No.: 2796

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	*	*	*	*	*	*

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	*	*	*	*	*	*
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	*	*	*	*	*	*

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)
 HB 48 describes specific actions and communications in which school personnel may or may not engage related to psychiatric and behavioral evaluations and treatments. School personnel are prohibited from recommending or requiring that a child take or continue to take a psychotropic drug as a condition for attending school; conducting a psychiatric or behavioral evaluation of a child; recommending a specific physician, psychologist or other health specialist to a parent or guardian; recommending that the parent take a specific course of medical or psychiatric action; and reporting suspected child abuse or neglect based solely on whether a parent or guardian refuses to consent to a course of medical, psychiatric, psychological, or behavioral treatment or evaluation.

 Costs for school districts to implement provisions of this bill are indeterminate.

Prepared by: Barbara Thompson, Director Phone 465-8727
 Division: Teaching & Learning Support Date/Time 3/31/06 12:30 p.m.
 Approved by: Karen Rehfeld, Deputy Commissioner Date 03/31/2006
 Agency: Education & Early Development

24-LS0208\Y
Mischel
4/11/06

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 48()

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): SENATOR DAVIS

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to recommending or refusing psychotropic drugs or certain types of
2 evaluations or treatments for children."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 14.30 is amended by adding new sections to read:

5 **Article 2A. Psychiatric and Behavioral Evaluations and Treatments.**

6 **Sec. 14.30.171. Prohibited actions.** Except as provided in AS 14.30.172 -
7 14.30.176, school personnel may not, unless otherwise authorized by law,

8 (1) recommend to a parent or guardian that a child take or continue to
9 take a psychotropic drug as a condition for attending a public school;

10 (2) require that a child take or continue to take a psychotropic drug as a
11 condition for attending a public school;

12 (3) conduct a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation of a child;

13 (4) recommend a specific licensed physician, psychologist, or other
14 health specialist to a parent or guardian for a child,

- 1 (5) recommend that a parent or guardian seek or use for a child
2 (A) a psychotropic medication; or
3 (B) a psychiatric or psychological treatment; or
4 (6) make a report of suspected child abuse or neglect to authorities,
5 including the Department of Health and Social Services, based solely on the fact that a
6 parent or guardian refuses to give signed consent for
7 (A) the administration of a psychotropic drug to a child;
8 (B) a psychiatric, psychological, or behavioral treatment of a
9 child; or
10 (C) a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation of a child.

11 **Sec. 14.30.172. Communication not prohibited.** (a) Nothing in AS 14.30.171
12 may be construed to prohibit school personnel from

13 (1) consulting or sharing classroom-based observations with parents or
14 guardians regarding a student's academic and functional performance, behavior in the
15 classroom or school, or regarding the need for evaluation for special education or
16 related services as long as school personnel do not

17 (A) make an assertion or recommendation that violates
18 AS 14.30.171; or

19 (B) denigrate, criticize, punish, or attempt to denigrate,
20 criticize, or punish, a parent, guardian, or child for a decision made by the
21 parent or guardian pertaining to whether the child takes, does not take, or
22 discontinues taking a psychotropic medication; or

23 (2) exercising their authority relating to the placement within the
24 school or readmission of a child who may be or has been suspended or expelled for a
25 violation of a school disciplinary and safety program adopted under AS 14.33.110 -
26 14.33.140.

27 (b) Nothing in AS 14.30.171 may be construed to prevent teachers or other
28 school personnel from complying with the requirements of AS 47.17.020.

29 **Sec. 14.30.174. Compliance with federal education law.** (a) Notwithstanding
30 AS 14.30.171(3) and (5), a behavioral or mental health professional working within a
31 public school system may, for the sole purpose of complying with federal education

1 law,

2 (1) recommend, but not require, a psychiatric or behavioral health
3 evaluation of a child;

4 (2) recommend, but not require, psychiatric, psychological, or
5 behavioral treatment for a child; and

6 (3) conduct a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation of a child
7 with the consent of the child's parent or guardian.

8 (b) In this section,

9 (1) "behavioral health professional" means a person who has a master's
10 degree in psychology, social work, counseling, or a related field with specialization or
11 experience in working with children experiencing behavioral, physical, and emotional
12 disabilities, and is working within the scope of the person's training and experience;
13 "behavioral health professional" does not include a person employed as a teacher;

14 (2) "federal education law" means 20 U.S.C. 1400 - 1487 (Individuals
15 with Disabilities Education Act), 20 U.S.C. 7101 - 7143 (Safe and Drug-Free Schools
16 and Communities Act of 1994), 29 U.S.C. 794 (nondiscrimination under federal grants
17 and programs), and 42 U.S.C. 12101 - 12213 (equal opportunity for individuals with
18 disabilities);

19 (3) "mental health professional" has the meaning given in
20 AS 47.30.915.

21 **Sec. 14.30.176. List of community resources.** Notwithstanding
22 AS 14.30.171(4), a school district may make available to an interested parent or
23 guardian a list of community resources, including mental health services if the list
24 conspicuously states the following: "This list is provided as a resource to you. The
25 school neither recommends nor requires that you use this list or any of the services
26 provided by individuals or entities on the list. It is for you to decide what services, if
27 any, to use and from whom you wish to obtain them."

28 **Sec. 14.30.177. Violations.** (a) A violation of AS 14.30.171 - 14.30.176
29 constitutes substantial noncompliance with a school law of the state for purposes of
30 dismissal of a teacher under AS 14.20.170 or nonretention of a teacher under
31 AS 14.20.175.

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(b) Each school board shall adopt a bylaw under AS 14.14.100 that provides that violation of AS 14.30.171 - 14.30.176 is grounds for disciplinary action against a person employed by the school district.

Sec. 14.30.179. Definition. In AS 14.30.171 - 14.30.179, "public school" means a school operated by publicly elected or appointed school officials in which the program and activities are under the control of those officials and that is supported by public funds.

Uncle Sam wants you – well, not everyone in prime recruiting age group

By Pauline Jelinek
ASSOCIATED PRESS

9:33 a.m. March 12, 2006

WASHINGTON – Uncle Sam wants YOU, that famous Army recruiting poster says. But does he really?

Not if you're a Ritalin-taking, overweight, Generation Y couch potato – or some combination of the above.

As for that fashionable "body art" that the military still calls a tattoo, having one is grounds for rejection, too.

With U.S. casualties rising in wars overseas and more opportunities in the civilian work force from an improved U.S. economy, many young people are shunning a career in the armed forces. But recruiting is still a two-way street – and the military, too, doesn't want most people in this prime recruiting age group of 17 to 24.

Of some 32 million Americans now in this group, the Army deems the vast majority too obese, too uneducated, too flawed in some way, according to its estimates for the current budget year.

"As you look at overall population and you start factoring out people, many are not eligible in the first place to apply," said Doug Smith, spokesman for the Army Recruiting Command.

Some experts are skeptical.

Previous Defense Department studies have found that 75 percent of young people are ineligible for military service, noted Charles Moskos of Northwestern University. While the professor emeritus who specializes in military sociology says it is "a baloney number," he acknowledges he has no figures to counter it.

"Recruiters are looking for reasons other than themselves," said David R. Segal, director of the Center for Research on Military Organization at the University of Maryland. "So they blame the pool."

The military's figures are estimates, based partly on census numbers. They are part of an elaborate analysis the military does as it struggles each year to compete with colleges and companies for the nation's best and brightest, plan for future needs and maintain diversity.

The Census Bureau estimates that the overall pool of people who would be in the military's prime target age has shrunk as American society ages. There were 1 million fewer 18- to 24-year olds in 2004 than in 2000, the agency says.

The pool shrinks to 13.6 million when only high school graduates and those who score in the upper half on a military service aptitude test are considered. The 30 percent who are high school dropouts are not the top choice of today's professional, all-volunteer and increasingly high-tech military force.

Other factors include:

- the rising rate of obesity; some 30 percent of U.S. adults are now considered obese.
- a decline in physical fitness; one-third of teenagers are now believed to be incapable of passing a treadmill test.

■ a near-epidemic rise in the use of Ritalin and other stimulants to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Potential recruits are ineligible for military service if they have taken such a drug in the previous year.

• Doctors prescribe these drugs to about 2 million children and 1 million adults a month, according to a federal survey. Many more are believed to be using such stimulants recreationally and to stay awake longer to boost academic and physical performance.

Other potential recruits are rejected because they have criminal histories and too many dependents. Subtract 4.4 million from the pool for these people and for the overweight.

Others can be rejected for medical problems, from blindness to asthma. The Army estimate has subtracted 2.6 million for this group.

That leaves 4.3 million fully qualified potential recruits and an estimated 2.3 million more who might qualify if given waivers on some of their problems.

The bottom line: a total 6.6 million potential recruits from all men and women in the 32 million-person age group.

In the budget year that ended last September, 15 percent of recruits required a waiver in order to be accepted for active duty services – or about 11,000 people of some 73,000 recruited.

Most waivers were for medical problems. Some were for misdemeanors such as public drunkenness, resisting arrest or misdemeanor assault – prompting criticism that the Army is lowering its standards.

This year the Army is trying to recruit 80,000 people; all the services are recruiting about 180,000.

And about the tattoos: They are not supposed to be on your neck, refer to gang membership, be offensive, or in any way conflict with military standards on integrity, respect and team work. The military is increasingly giving waivers for some types of tattoos, officials said.

■ On the Net:

Defense Department career and aptitude exploration site: www.asvabprogram.com

Find this article at:

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/military/20060312-0933-unclesamwantsyou.html>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

FYI
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Councilman backs bill affecting psychotropic drugs in schools
By CHRIS ESHLEMAN
Staff Writer

Monday, April 10, 2006 - A Fairbanks City Council member is asking the council to support a bill in Juneau that seeks to bar employees in public schools in Alaska from recommending the use of psychotropic drugs by students.

While he thinks it is rare that schools would require children to take drugs like Ritalin or Adderall as a prerequisite of attending, Councilman Lloyd Hilling said he is concerned that school employees in Alaska can recommend parents put their children on the drugs without enough understanding of the possible and proven side effects psychotropics can have.

"Let's let scientific research prove these psychotropic drugs," Hilling said. "Meanwhile, let's not be pushing them."

Hilling has put forward a resolution to the council that, if approved, would support a bill introduced last year in the Alaska Legislature. The bill, sponsored by state Sen. Bettye Davis, D-Anchorage, would, in part, prohibit school employees from recommending that a child take a psychotropic drug as a condition for attending a public school.

The bill has not moved from the Senate since it was introduced over a year ago, but a Senate committee plans to hold a public hearing on it Wednesday.

In a sponsor statement on her bill, Davis said it is important that only physicians suggest the use of psychiatric medication. Davis said the use of the drugs in schools has increased rapidly in recent years, and points to parents' concern regarding the issue of diagnosis.

"There are documented incidences of highly negative consequences in which psychiatric prescription drugs have been utilized for what are essentially problems of discipline," Davis' statement reads.

Hilling said the roles of schools in the prescription of psychiatric drugs has been a concern of his for years. A teacher at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and former teacher's aide, Hilling said he supports Davis' bill in part because it would help require parents around the state to go to doctors for advice without being biased through conversations with school employees.

Chris Eshleman can be reached at 907-59-7582 or ceshleman@newsminer.com.

Introduced by: Council Member Hilling
Date: April 10, 2006

RESOLUTION NO. 4208

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 48, WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT SCHOOL PERSONNEL FROM RECOMMENDING OR REQUIRING PRESCRIPTIONS OF PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

WHEREAS, the family of psychotropic drugs, such as the Amphetamine-type Ritalin and Adderall, are often prescribed for school age children in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, school personnel often require or recommend to parents that these drugs be prescribed to ameliorate their children's behavior; and

WHEREAS, such drugs pose significant risk for a multitude of proven negative side effects, including negative transformations of personality and even death; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Senate Bill No. 48, "An Act relating to recommending or refusing psychotropic drugs or certain types of evaluations or treatments for children," is currently being debated in the Alaska State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the SB 48 would amend the Alaska Statutes by adding 14.30.171, which reads in part "school personnel may not recommend..." [or require that a parent or guardian obtain a prescription for] "...a child to take or continue to take a psychotropic drug..." (a full copy of the Bill is attached);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Fairbanks supports adoption of SB 48 and encourages the public to review the Bill and provide input to the legislature.

Passed and Approved this 10th day of April, 2006.

STEVE M. THOMPSON, MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM

ATTEST:

Carol L. Colp CMC, City Clerk

Herbert P. Kuss, City Attorney

LISA MURKOWSKI
ALASKA
MAJORITY DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN; SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WATER AND POWER
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0203

(202) 224-6618

(202) 224-3001 FAX

April 18, 2005

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ANCHORAGE, AK 99501-1908
(907) 571-3738

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FAIRBANKS, AK 99701-0276
(907) 454-0232

P.O. Box 21647
JUNEAU, AK 99802-1647
(907) 586-7400

140 THOMPSON DAY ROAD, SUITE 380
KENAI, AK 99541-7716
(907) 281-5000

540 WALKER STREET, SUITE 101
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901-4270
(907) 225-6800

861 EAST WYOMING STREET, SUITE 307
WASILLA, AK 99654-7143
(907) 374-7164

Mr. Frank Tunney
Post Office Box 70392
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

Dear Frank:

I appreciate hearing from you regarding S. 1390, the Child Medication Safety Act, that was pending in the 108th Congress and would have prohibited school personnel from coercing children to receive, or their parents to administer, psychotropic medication. I understand your concerns.

The reason S. 1390 has not been reintroduced this year is that the language it contained was included in another bill that passed last year. The reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Act reauthorization bill, H.R. 1350, included the following language:

SEC. 612. STATE ELIGIBILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—A State is eligible for assistance under this part for a fiscal year if the State submits a plan that provides assurances to the Secretary that the State has in effect policies and procedures to ensure that the State meets each of the following conditions:

(25) PROHIBITION ON MANDATORY MEDICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The State educational agency shall prohibit State and local educational agency personnel from requiring a child to obtain a prescription for a substance covered by the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) as a condition of attending school, receiving an evaluation under subsection (a) or (c) of section 614, or receiving services under this title.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be construed to create a Federal prohibition against teachers and other school personnel consulting or sharing classroom-based observations with parents or guardians regarding a student's academic and functional performance, or behavior in the classroom or school, or regarding the need for evaluation for special education or related services under paragraph (3).

H.R. 1350 was signed into law (Public Law 108-446) by the President on December 3, 2004. Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

HOME PAGE AND WEB MAIL
MURKOWSKI.SENATE.GOV

Introduced by: Council Member Hilling
Date: April 10, 2006

RESOLUTION NO. 4208, As Amended

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 48, WHICH WOULD
PROHIBIT SCHOOL PERSONNEL FROM RECOMMENDING OR REQUIRING
PRESCRIPTIONS OF PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN**

WHEREAS, the family of psychotropic drugs, such as the Amphetamine-type Ritalin and Adderall, are often prescribed for school age children in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, school personnel often require or recommend to parents that these drugs be prescribed to ameliorate their children's behavior; and

WHEREAS, potential recruits are ineligible for military service if they have taken such a drug in the previous year and such recruits may be ineligible due to childhood use; and

WHEREAS, such drugs pose significant risk for a multitude of proven negative side effects, including negative transformations of personality and even death; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Senate Bill No. 48, "An Act relating to recommending or refusing psychotropic drugs or certain types of evaluations or treatments for children," is currently being debated in the Alaska State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the SB 48 would amend the Alaska Statutes by adding Section 14.30.171, which reads in part "school personnel may not recommend..." [or require that a parent or guardian obtain a prescription for] "... a child to take or continue to take a psychotropic drug..." (a full copy of the Bill is attached);

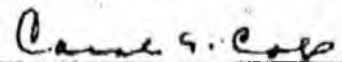
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Fairbanks supports adoption of SB 48 and encourages the public to review the Bill and provide input to the legislature:

Passed and Approved this 10th day of April, 2006.


STEVE M. THOMPSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM


Carol L. Colp CMC, City Clerk


Herbert P. Kuss, City Attorney

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By: Bonnie Williams
Introduced: 04/14/05
Adopted: 04/14/05

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 2005 - 23

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT ON PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS AND CHILDREN

WHEREAS, the use of drugs to address behavioral problems in children has become alarmingly prevalent; and

WHEREAS, some public schools have endorsed and enforced such usage through recommendations, suggestions and other actions; and

WHEREAS, parents may be coerced into taking actions which are not in the best interest of their child through untrained referrals; and

WHEREAS, recommendations, referrals and suggestions involving behavioral problems should only involve trained personnel, parents and legal guardians, and licensed physicians and psychiatrists; and

WHEREAS, the use of psychotropic drugs may be appropriate to help some children; and

WHEREAS, there are no prohibitions in current state statutes prohibiting coercion by school officials on parents and children involving psychotropic drugs; and

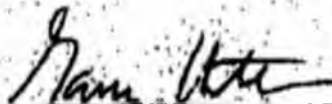
WHEREAS, proactive statutory limitations can prevent before a triggering event and tragedy actually occurs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly supports legislation, which addresses this issue in a manner that leaves open the provision of informational resources, leaves untouched school authority to maintain discipline, but which prohibits coercive actions by schools involving psychotropic drugs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor of the State of Alaska, and members of the Interior Delegation of the Alaska State Legislature.

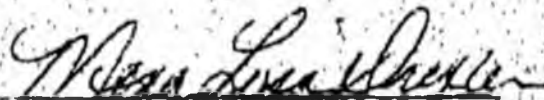
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PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 14th DAY OF APRIL 2005.



Garry Hutchison
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:



Mona Lisa Drexler, CMC
Municipal Borough Clerk

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Ayes: Romans, Bartos, Salttoy, Rex, Williams, Hopkins, Aldridge, Frank, Hutchison
Noes: None

From Sen. Davis

Available Bills

Category	Bill #	Summary	Status
Children	<u>AK SB 0048</u>	PSYCH. EVALUATION/TREATMENT FOR STUDENTS	introduced
Children	<u>FL HB 0209</u>	Contains the following provisions: 1) A recipient of state funds shall not require a student to be prescribed or administered any psychotropic medication as a condition of such student receiving educational or school-based services; 2) A psychotropic medication shall not be administered to a student on school premises except by a licensed health care professional and in compliance with HIPPA; and 3) A school or school district personnel shall not initiate, or make a referral for, diagnosis or treatment of a student for any disorder listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders or in ICD-10.	passed house committee
Children	<u>FL SB 1090</u>	Minors/Psychotropic Medication	passed senate committee
Children	<u>FL SB 1766</u>	School Students/Psychotropic Med	introduced
Children	<u>GA SB 0128</u>	Mental Health Screening; urge GA Congressional Delegation to oppose	introduced
Children	<u>NH HB 0240</u>	relative to psychotropic drugs and child protection.	passed house committee
Children	<u>NM SJM 0052</u>	STUDY PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FOR CHILD BEHAVIOR	enacted
Children	<u>NY AB 1132</u>	Directs the commissioner of education to establish rules and regulations prohibiting school personnel from recommending psychotropic drugs for children.	introduced
Children	<u>NY AB 5043</u>	Restricts recommendations for psychotropic drugs.	introduced
Children	<u>NY SB 2900</u>	Directs the commissioner of education to establish rules and regulations prohibiting school personnel from recommending psychotropic drugs for children.	introduced
Children	<u>PA HB 0591</u>	An Act amending the act of March 10 1949 (P.L.30 No.14) known as the Public School Code of 1919 prohibiting school officials or employees from recommending that a child use psychotropic or sympathomimetic drugs.	introduced
Children	<u>TN HB 0580</u>	Students - Prohibits school personnel from recommending psychotropic drugs such as Ritalin to treat elementary and secondary school students for behavioral concerns. - Amends TCA Title 49 Chapter 6 Part 50.	hearing held
Children	<u>UT HB 0042</u>	Prohibits school personnel from making certain medical recommendations for a minor, including the use of psychotropic drugs; prohibits consideration of a petition for removal of a minor and removal of a minor from parental custody based on a parent's refusal to consent to the administration of psychotropic drugs.	passed house & senate
Children	<u>VT HB 0074</u>	PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS AND SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES FOR CHILDREN	introduced
Children, Medications Access, Mental Health	<u>NY AB 5885</u>	Authorizes and directs the department of health to conduct a study on drugs prescribed for school-age children with ADD.	introduced

Testimony on Senate Bill 48, "An Act relating to recommending or refusing psychotropic drugs or certain types of evaluations or treatments for children."

Presented by Richard Warner, President, Seattle Chapter, Citizens Commission on Human Rights, Seattle, Washington, 1-877-448-8517.

Legislation similar to SB 48 has been passed by a number of states, including Connecticut, Minnesota, Illinois, Virginia, Colorado, Arizona, New Hampshire, and Florida.

Such legislation is meant to address the problem of the intrusion of psychiatry into the lives of families by means of the powers granted to schools and state agencies.

There is no question that children face enormous difficulties growing up in today's society and there are dozens of root causes that we can point to which influence their development and behavior. They include such things as divorce and broken homes, hours spent in front of television sets, constant exposure from a very young age to sexual images, poor nutrition and poor overall health, poverty, drug abuse, exposure to environmental toxins, and a lack of adult guidance in their lives.

The psychiatric and drug industries have a marketing plan to use the problems of children and families to sell their services and drugs. That plan is to pitch the message that the real problem is a chemical imbalance in the brains of children and that children need to be tested to see if they are mentally ill and provide them treatment.

This plan is dangerous and destructive to the welfare of children and families for two basic reasons: The unscientific and arbitrary nature of psychiatric diagnosis and the ineffectiveness and dangerous effects of psychiatric drugs. Time does not permit going into this subject in detail here but let me briefly point to two issues. Attached you will find a brief but more detailed presentation on psychiatric drugging and diagnosis.

According to psychiatry's own diagnostic manual, "In DSM-IV [the latest edition] there is no assumption that each category of mental disorder is a completely discrete entity with absolute boundaries dividing it from other mental disorders or no mental disorder." Thus psychiatry's own manual admits it can't distinguish a mental disorder or no mental disorder.

Moreover, there is no biological or physiological basis to psychiatric diagnosis. The Surgeon General's 1999 report on mental health stated, "...there is no definitive lesion, laboratory test, or abnormality in brain tissue that can identify the illness," and referred to the "lack of objective, physical symptoms."

Harvard psychiatrist Joseph Glenmullen has written, "In recent decades, we have had no shortage of alleged biochemical imbalances for psychiatric conditions. Diligent though these attempts have been, not one has been proven. Quite the contrary. In every instance where such an imbalance was thought to have been found, it was later proven false."