

As a Licensed Social Worker serving Ohio students, I strongly oppose HB 172. Repealing ORC 5122.04 would remove a critical, long-standing safeguard that allows youth ages 14-17 to access short-term mental health services when parental consent cannot be obtained due to safety concerns, refusal, or unavailability. This limited provision does not undermine parents' rights, it simply ensures that the most vulnerable young people are not left without any support during moments of crisis. For the safety and wellbeing of Ohio youth, I urge lawmakers to vote No on HB 172.