

Testimony Opposing House Bill 172– “Prohibit mental health service to minors without parental consent”

Dear Elected Officials:

As a constituent of Ohio, a Clinical Social Worker, and an Educator, I am urging you to reject HB 172 “Prohibit mental health service to minors without parental consent”. There is just a very short window that School Mental Healthcare providers are now currently able to provide services while consent is being sought from parents. That window is 6 sessions or 30 days, whichever comes first and only available for minors who are 14 years old or older. That small window allows for early intervention, especially when parents are busy or not involved or hard to get ahold of for any reason.

Early intervention saves lives.

This bill will just make it harder for Mental Healthcare providers (of which Social Workers make up the largest percentage in Ohio) to do our work and support young people in getting access to the care they need.

Rather than enacting bills like these, please set up a time to consult with us as professionals. We will be glad to answer any questions you have and dispel any wrong information about the work that we do for and with the communities we serve.

Thank you,

Ri Molnar, MSW, LISW-S