

Written-Only Opponent Testimony for HB 172
House Health Committee Hearing on Wednesday, November 19, 2025
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Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony. My name is Stephanie Ash (she/her) and I am a licensed attorney and social worker in Ohio. I write to voice my opposition to HB 172.

While Representative Newman argues that the creation of the parental involvement policy outlined in Ohio Revised Code § 3313.473 requires the repeal of O.R.C. § 5122.04 to avoid confusion, this hides the true intent of the law: to isolate at-risk youth and further whittle down available resources and the limited rights minors have as individuals. First, the provisions of O.R.C. § 3313.473(B)(4) require that school districts develop and adopt a policy which informs parents of health services offered at the school and allows parents to provide consent. School districts can include information about the short-term outpatient mental health services permitted by O.R.C. § 5122.04 at the beginning of the school year and obtain consent at that time. The confusion Representative Newman mentions is manufactured and can be easily addressed by each school district within the processes outlined in O.R.C. § 3313.473.

Further, if parents do not consent to short-term outpatient mental health services available through a school district, youth should have an opportunity to seek this care outside of school; however, passage of HB 172 would eliminate this option. O.R.C § 5122.04 applies to **any** outpatient mental health services for youth aged 14 and up, not just services which may be provided in schools. To repeal the entire law is unnecessary and leaves minors between the ages of 14-17 without a critical short-term resource.

I urge the Committee to vote NO on HB 172 as O.R.C. § 5122.04 has been available to minors without issue since July 1, 1989. Alternatively, I recommend that the Committee postpone a vote until the bill is amended to only apply to school districts and not repeal O.R.C. §5122.04 in its entirety. Thank you.