

I have been a licensed social worker for four years and I have worked with immigrants and refugees, foster families, and now currently work in a school. It is very rare to use ORC 5122.04 to provide care for a teen without parental consent, but when it is used it's very necessary. A child may have an emergency such as suicidal or homicidal ideation that needs to be addressed immediately. If a parent cannot be contacted, it severely limits the counselor's ability to help this child, and could lead to death.

Being in a school, I have already been affected by the Parent's Rights Act, and it has been difficult to provide students with the care they need because their parents have not signed a form. HB 172 would make it near impossible to help students going through a crisis.

I urge you, if you truly care about children, to vote NO on HB 172.