

Dear Chair Doherty and Members of the Committee,

In the beginning of the year when I registered my daughter for kindergarten, I wrote a letter that my child was not to participate in any health or medical exams. I was very specific and detailed that we as parents are fully responsible for our children's health and well being. This letter was given to our child's office assistant along with all her other paperwork. Before Christmas break a notice was sent home about hearing and eye exams. I wrote on the permission slip that our child was not to participate in the exam. My child informed me 3 weeks ago that she was brought into a dark room alone with a man who took a photo of her to check her eyes. As a former Child Abuse Transcriptionist, I was livid. Not only did the school, twice, go against my specific instructions to opt out, they put our 5 year old in a compromising situation.

I say all that to say this. Since when is it the job or role of the school to examine or psychoanalyze our children? Since when is it the job of an educator to subject small children to health surveys without parental consent? We do not bring our children to school and relinquish our rights and influence in their lives. We bring them to school for them to learn, Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. This is another example of the state usurping and overreaching into the role of the parent. Please do not support this bill. This bill is a violation of our parental rights, our children's privacy, and opens the door for more scrutiny into our lives.

I filed a formal complaint with my child's principal over the situation mentioned in the beginning. It took 3 weeks to get a response and an apology from the principal. It showed me that the school simply does not care that they were so careless, and there is now a violation of trust between me and my child's teacher.

In this current age of gaslighting parents, this bill is the last thing we need.

Regards,
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