

Submitter: Anonymous Parent

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Any good doctor, psychologist, nurse, etc, knows that the front part of the brain, the prefrontal cortex, is developed last. This is the decision-making part of the brain, responsible for a child's ability to plan and think about the consequences of actions, solve problems and control impulses. Changes in this part of the brain continue into early adulthood. The prefrontal cortex isn't fully complete as late as age 25.

Because the prefrontal cortex is still developing, teenagers might rely more on a part of the brain called the amygdala to make decisions and solve problems. The amygdala is associated with emotions, impulses, aggression and instinctive behavior.

Making certain health care decisions shouldn't be made on impulse or when emotional. There are permanent physical and psychological consequences that most teenagers are not equipped to handle on their own.

In addition, HB2002 violates a parent's constitutional right to determine what is best for their child.

This bill has similar aspects to Oregon Compulsory Public Education Act of 1922 which was rendered unconstitutional and nullified by the Supreme Court in 1925:

"...rights guaranteed by the Constitution may not be abridged by legislation which has no reasonable relation to some purpose within the competency of the state... the child is not the mere creature of the state; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations."

HB 2002 irrationally, illogically, unreasonably, and unconstitutionally interferes with the liberty of parents and guardians to direct the upbringing and health care of their children.

I urge you to please see the bigger picture here. There will be permanent ramifications that will inevitably come if this bill is passed. It will do more harm than good.

Signed,  
A concerned parent

