

Submitter: Brett Harper
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB989

Thousands of kids every year are abused in the troubled teen industry. The troubled teen industry is network of rehabs, boarding schools, wilderness programs, and other behavioral health programs aimed at breaking the resolve of the teen, robbing them of their authentic self, and then imprinting the will of their parents or society on them, often with little or no thought to how that may affect them long term mentally or physically.

I myself am disabled from such a program, Agape Boarding School. I stood up against kids being transported out of state to such facilities and we passed a law that Sen Gelser helped us write and pass so that we could protect kids from vultures like the transport agents who take kids to these abusive facilities for parents.

The best place for a child to receive support is in the home. Therefore it is my thought we should do more to support outpatient care, keep children in homes, and support parents with the tools they need to educate their children about drugs but also mental health in general. Im not sure how this could be done but supporting families instead of making it easier for them to dump their kids into a system that is full of abuse, fraud, and lacks oversight would be a much better approach.

Id also like to point out the language for behavioral issues seems vague and that means it could have broad interpretation giving the courts a broad scope of authority to deem someone worthy of being committed. I believe this could be abused and like we have seen with elder care people could abuse this to turn a profit at the expense of the kids being fed to this metaphorical wood chipper (the troubled teen industry).

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Brett Harper