



**HB98, which would allow school districts to become Medicaid providers and deliver or contract with Local Mental Health Authorities for mental health services would allow schools to make money off of the labeling, treating, drugging of children.**

**Please oppose HB98.**

Problem: HB98 creates a conflict of interest in that it allows schools to make money off of providing mental health services. They already have one of the most important missions in society- the education of tomorrow's leaders. They do not need a competing mission.

Currently, our children are surveyed, questioned, assessed, and made to discuss their "feelings", often with "opt-out" consent, and in some cases no consent. Where parents do consent, they are likely uninformed or under-informed. In some Social and Emotional Learning or counseling lessons, children sit in a circle, talk about their emotions and why they feel that way. There is no parental consent for that.

Given the above, why would we trust our schools to gain our consent before using such private information they've gained through these surveys and questions to drive mental health referrals?

Fact: Schools already have the ability to partner with their Local Mental Health Authorities or even private providers. That's already covered in law.

Some school districts already have health and mental health clinics on campus.

Texas Education 911 position: **Danger Bill**

We oppose this bill and consider it dangerous. In addition to the inherent conflict of interest created by this bill, it also violates our position on getting schools back to basics.

At a time when children are falling behind academically, educational minutes are valuable. Providing therapy or psychiatric treatment at school could easily take away from those precious minutes.

Privacy Considerations: Even if we could trust our schools to gain parental consent before scrutinizing student behaviors to generate referrals, there is another problem- teachers would certainly know when our children were leaving class for an appointment at a school-based mental health clinic. Other students could not help but see children coming and going from a school-based mental health clinic.

Parental Consent: This bill cannot be made better by adding parental consent language. Parental consent is already required for psychological and psychiatric services, including those in school-based clinics.

Despite this:

- Children can consent to counseling in some situations (Texas Family Code Sec.32.004).
- 16-year olds can request admission to a psychiatric hospital for inpatient or outpatient services. (Texas Health and Safety Code Sec.572.001).
- This bill does nothing to change those laws.

All who believe that schools should be solely a place of learning and achievement should oppose this bill.

**WE FULLY OPPOSE SCHOOLS BECOMING MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS**

*Texas Education 911 is a statewide grassroots network of parents who are constructively addressing the educational emergency in Texas public schools. As parents, we have identified the problems in our schools and school system and provide positive policy solutions for their remedy. Disclaimer: The contents of this document are the opinions of volunteer parents and community members. Research – Parental Rights Advocacy – Policy Proposals – Legislative Analysis – Informing Conferences.*

*Want a bill analyzed by Texas parents? Contact: Melissa Beckett at [TexasEd911@gmail.com](mailto:TexasEd911@gmail.com)*