

CCHR: Parents' Rights Form Provides Opt-Out for School Mental Health Screening

With over 6 million children on mind-altering meds, calls for more mental health screening are bad idea, watchdog says. Parents urged to become better informed

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- As part of its mental health industry watchdog role, Citizens Commission its group's [Parents: Get the Facts—Know Your Rights](#) webpage to familiarize themselves with how to protect their children from invasive mental health screening in schools. It includes a downloadable [Parent's Exemption Form Prior to Mental Health and Psychological Screening](#) or Counseling that can be signed and provided to schools. It also provides a link to a Federal law that prohibits schools from coercing or forcing a parent to put their child on a psychotropic medication as a requisite for their remaining in class.[1]



With over 6 million American children taking mind-altering meds, calls for more mental health screening are a bad idea, watchdog says. Parents are urged to become better informed and decide whether to “opt-out” school age children from screening.

CCHR worked with families to secure the Prohibition of Mandatory Medication Amendment in 2004 when it was discovered that parents were being threatened with criminal charges if they refused to put their school-aged child on a psychotropic drug or took them off it.

At the time, schoolchildren were being screened for depression and suicide using a “Teen Screen” questionnaire that had an 84% false positive rate that could lead to antidepressants being recommended—drugs that contained a warning they can cause suicidal behavior in teens. The screening program shut down in 2012.[2]

Allen Jones, former investigator with the Pennsylvania Office of the Inspector General, charged that screening often translates normal human emotions into symptoms of mental illness, which is driven not by genuine concern for kids, but by a profit motive. “TeenScreen was developed and

promoted by persons with deep financial ties to makers of psychiatric drugs,” said Jones.[3]

Today, there is a renewed push for screening.

A New York Times article on March 23, 2020 suggested there’s a mental-health crisis among American children and asserted that “current surveys that keep tabs on various aspects of mental health in children are too slow to capture swift changes amid a national crisis” (pandemic). Therefore, “screening for depression and anxiety at schools and pediatricians’ offices will be crucial, because the symptoms associated with those conditions are easier to manage and do less damage when addressed early.”[4]

However, this belies the fact that more than 6.1 million Americans aged 0-17 are already taking psychotropic drugs with serious adverse effects that include suicide, homicidal ideation, mania and violence.[5] About 85,000 are aged one or younger, while the highest target group is aged 6-12 with 2.65 million on psychotropics.

According to IQVia prescription tracking, in 2020 among the 0-17 age group, 2,154,118 were taking antidepressants and 1,153,351 were on anti-anxiety drugs, also known as benzodiazepines and tranquilizers, that are potentially addictive within 14 days of taking them.[6] As early as 1982, a known risk of anti-anxiety drugs was potential brain damage. More than 3.1 million 0-17 year-olds are also taking psychostimulants that the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) says can lead to “severe psychological or physical dependence” with some producing the same effects as cocaine.[7]

New American reported that “there is a striking connection between school shootings and psychotherapeutic drugs,” naming ten examples, also addressed in CCHR’s report [Psychiatric Drugs Create Violence and Suicide](#). [8]

The potential damage is so prevalent that between 2005 and 2016, Congressman Ron Paul repeatedly warned that “Mandatory depression screening will endanger people’s health by increasing the use of psychotropic drugs. These drugs often have dangerous side effects...another good reason to oppose any policy that will increase reliance on these medicines.”[9]

Congressman Paul introduced the Parental Consent Act, which would keep federal funds from being used to establish or implement any universal or mandatory mental health, psychiatric, or socioemotional screening program—legislative protections that are needed now more than ever.[10]

With social media, including TikTok marketing to teens, there is an upsurge in promoting the self-identification of mental disorders that are already based on subjective opinion about symptoms, not medical science. The symptoms of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder ADHD are so broad that anyone could be labeled with it and drugged. The New York Times pointed out that

“The ADHD hashtag has over 2.7 billion views on TikTok.... This is part of the platform’s broader issue of unmoderated mental health content, where videos can gain popularity regardless of accuracy.”[11]

Social media comics have been shared on the website for the same group, as well as its magazine and on its social media pages.[12] As early as 1995 the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) raised the alarm over the group actively lobbying for the use of methylphenidate (Ritalin) for children while being funded by the manufacturer of Ritalin.[13]

According to one marketing firm, the global mental health market was estimated at US\$384.85 billion in 2021 and is expected to reach \$560.33 billion by 2030, driving the incentive for more mental health screening.[14]

Vera Sharav of the Alliance for Human Research Protection (AHRP) has warned that mental health screening leaves “no room for individual choice—or the freedom for parents to say no to psychotropic drugs for their children. Such mandatory, government-endorsed screening programs contradict the freedoms guaranteed in a democratic society.”[15]

CCHR’s webpage for parents provides links to and recommended reading for them, their rights and information on alternatives to mind-altering prescription drugs.

Read full article here: <https://www.cchrnt.org/2022/04/18/parents-rights-form-provides-opt-out-for-school-mental-health-screening/>

[1] <https://www.cchrnt.org/issues/childmentaldisorders/>

[2] <https://www.cchrnt.org/2012/11/27/teenscreen-shuts-down/>

[3] <https://www.cchrnt.org/2011/10/24/ron-paul-is-right-mental-screening-of-school-kids-aims-to-leave-no-child-unmedicated/>

[4] Kim Tingley, “There’s a Mental-Health Crisis Among American Children,” New York Times, 23 Mar. 2022, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/23/magazine/mental-health-crisis-kids.html>

[5] https://www.cchrnt.org/psychiatric-drugs/drug_warnings_on_violence/

[6] <https://www.cchrnt.org/psychiatric-drugs/children-on-psychiatric-drugs/>

[7] Nina Lakhani, "Drugs linked to brain damage 30 years ago," The Independent, 7 Nov. 2010, <https://www.benzo.org.uk/indep7-10.htm>; <https://www.cchrnt.org/psychiatric-drugs/children-on-psychiatric-drugs/>; “Drugs of Abuse,” Drug Enforcement Administration, p. 35, <https://www.naabt.org/documents/Drugs%20of%20abuse%20DEA.pdf>

[8] <https://www.cchrnt.org/2021/01/12/study-funds-should-review-child-deaths-suicide-and-violence-from-psych-drugs/>, citing: C. Mitchell Shaw "Study: Psychiatric Drugs Linked to Violent Crime," The New American, 21 Oct. 2015, <https://thenewamerican.com/study-psychiatric-drugs-linked-to-violent-crime/>

[9] Ron Paul, "Mandatory Depression Screening is A Depressing Thought," 7 Feb. 2016, <http://ronpaulinstitute.org/archives/featured-articles/2016/february/07/mandatory-depression-screening-is-a-depressing-thought/>

[10] J.D. Heyes, "Ron Paul reintroduces Parental Consent Act, prohibiting federal funding for psychiatric screening of children," Natural News, 15 Feb. 2012, https://www.naturalnews.com/034978_Ron_Paul_parental_consent_psychiatric_screening.html

[11] "'No One's Ever Talked to Me About This Before,'" New York Times, 25 May 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/24/style/adhd-online-creators-diagnosis.html>

[12] Ibid.

[13] <https://www.cchrnt.org/issues/psycho-pharmaceutical-front-groups/chadd/>, citing: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board, 1995, https://www.incb.org/documents/Publications/AnnualReports/AR1995/AR_1995_E.pdf, p. 21

[14] <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/mental-health-market-is-estimated-to-reach-us-560-33-bn-by-2030-driven-by-an-increase-in-prevalence-of-mental-disorders-and-rising-geriatric-population-cagr-4-43-astute-analytica-301522577.html>

[15] <https://www.cchrnt.org/2016/02/11/psych-plan-for-subjective-depression-screening/> citing: Vera Sharav, Alliance for Human Research Protection (AHRP), http://ahrp.org/two-thirds-foster-care-children-in-mass-on-psych-drugs_globe-psychiatry-soviet-experience-american-fallacy/, 11 Aug. 2004

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