



CWA of Illinois Calls upon Governor Blagojevich to Support Parental Consent on the Children's Mental Health Screening Plan

The Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership's final screening plan will be submitted to the governor's office on June 30, 2005. This plan is a result of the Illinois Children's Mental Health Act of 2003 that passed both Houses and was signed into law by Governor Blagojevich which seeks to screen all children, ages 0-18, and beyond as needed to age 21, as well as pregnant women, **to determine their mental status for possible evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment including psychotropic drugs.**

Illinois is the pilot state.

In addition, new social and emotional state learning standards are established, and local school boards are forced to adopt policies integrating social and emotional learning into classroom curriculum.

The Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership, which created and will monitor the implementation of the plan, proposed a preliminary plan in the fall of 2004 which has greatly concerned taxpayers and citizens, and which also keeps parents at arm's length.

Concerned Women for America of Illinois, working with other concerned family groups and individuals, favors complete repeal of the 2003 act due to its general blatant overreach, subjective nature and cost.

The carte blanche authority of the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership is of immediate concern to parents of daycare and school children. In the government schools, for example, it is absolutely vital that the government be required to obtain written parental consent; otherwise, the plan is inadequate for basic involvement of parents. Just as others may not even give children an aspirin without a parent's consent; likewise, others should not screen children for mental illness without a parent's knowledge and consent.

The lack of written parental consent for children, and also informed consent for pregnant women, prior to government "sanity screening" in Illinois, is a clear and present danger which must be rectified in law. It unconscionably undermines parents and breeds mistrust. No one knows or cares more for the welfare and best interests of their children than parents. Likewise, pregnant women have an inherent right to be informed of any so-called mental health screening.

Concerned Women for America of Illinois supports proposed legislation which will ensure parental and informed consent and calls upon Governor Blagojevich to show good faith in his efforts to promote strong families in our state.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Please pray and call Governor Blagojevich today at (217)-782-6830, and respectfully ask him to reconsider his position on the children's mental health screening and to immediately support the "opt in" parental and informed consent legislation.

Also it is critical that you call BOTH your state senator and representative. Click here if you are unsure who they are: <http://www.elections.state.il.us/dls/pages/DLSAddresscrit.asp>

An outpouring of calls is the only thing that will help to produce the much needed vehicle bill for this legislation. Up until now all efforts have been met with resistance.

Concerned Women for America is the nation's largest public policy women's organization.

**Concerned Women for America
of Illinois**

P.O. Box 188 Palos Heights, IL 60463
Phone: (708) 371-7810 Fax: (708) 371-7896 E-mail: director@illinois.cwfa.org
Web site: <http://illinois.cwfa.org>