

Written Testimony OPPOSING HB 132 – Minor Consent Bill
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HB 132 seems to be an attempt to undermine the rights and authority of parents, without any real evidence that this is even necessary. Where is the evidence that the parents need this decision making assistance or that they even want it. I understand that this is under the guise of protecting the minor from a possibly abusive situation, but if that is the case, medicine or treatments are not going to help especially when these drugs many times become addictive and lead to other psychological conditions.

It would be better to provide conscious-thinking-goal-setting-communications-building counseling to both parents and child rather than resort to mind altering medicinal treatments that a child is given permission to decide to take. Taking the decision away from the parents leaves the decision to a human being whose reasoning and decision-making skills are not yet fully developed and are at this point very radical. It would further isolate and separate an already dysfunctional family and lead to more dysfunction rather than leading to building the bond between parent and child which obviously needs to happen in the first place. What do you think will be the effect when the parents find out the child did this behind their back? Do you really think that is going to have a positive outcome on the family bond and on the family learning to cope and interact as a functional unit? Absolutely not! It will create more and more dysfunction and separation and probably more violence and abuse if that is the current situation in the first place.

Our society deems the human conscious to be fully developed and able to perform rational reasoning and decision making at the age of 16. There are no studies that show this occurring at an earlier age, and in fact there are more studies showing that it occurs at an even later age. The age of 16 is where we give our young adults responsibility for driving a car. But our society clearly doesn't believe the reasoning skills are developed enough to allow the young adult to vote or drink alcohol. So no I don't think it is right to lower the age that we expect a young adult to make a decision on their own regarding treatments or getting medicines which are just as mind altering and even more addictive than alcohol.

Please do not pass this bill!
I oppose it completely!