

# Support HB1224

Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair  
House Health and Government Operations Committee

## **HB 1224 - Public Schools – Medical and Psychological Treatment in School – Based Health Centers and Public Schools – Parental Notice**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my strong support for **HB1224**.

Parents must be informed of medical diagnoses and treatments administered to their children in public school settings and healthcare centers. Parents are the primary guardians of their children's health and have their best interest. In most cases, only parents or guardians know the full medical history of a child. Any factors contributing to the student's health should be fully disclosed to parents or guardians to avoid detrimental effects on children's health.

When one of my daughters was of kindergarten's age, a persistent rash appeared on her face, and would not go away easily. A doctor suggested that it looked like a chemical burn. We recalled that the rash appeared shortly after a dental procedure. It was easy to connect the dots in that case, since we arranged the necessary procedure ourselves, knew exactly what was done, in what settings, and were clear on the timing.

However, how would we know what to look for if a treatment was done in a school without any information provided? What if the consequence was serious, such as an anaphylactic shock, but we weren't available at the time?

What if the parents were not informed of a specific treatment given to a child in school, and then later set up the same treatment with the child's doctor, duplicating the treatment and increasing potential risks? If a mental health consultation or treatment were performed, would anyone besides the provider even know? Could a small child understand what treatment was given and for what reason?

Thus, it is absolutely essential to keep parents informed of any medical treatments available or provided to their children. Please vote favorably for HB 1224.

Sincerely,  
Mark Meyerovich  
Gaithersburg, MD