

HB23-1003

For Committee Hearing (House Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services)
on 7 Feb 2023

Madam Chair and Representatives of this Committee –

Good afternoon, my name is Lori Goebel; I reside in Loveland with my husband, James. I'm a mom, bonus-mom, grandmother and a great-grandma.

When I signed up I found it interesting that I was asked if I was representing myself or a specific organization.

To be quite honest, I don't know how many citizens of Colorado I represent today. – I know my comments could be repeated by my husband, my mother, my son and his wife who live in Co Springs, friends and acquaintances, a wonderful group- Patriot Grandmas!, all the people who attend our church, the people who live in my neighborhood, (KCFO, Sat. Patriot Group) ... you get the idea.

(It was alarming to me and to others that in the summary Line 4 states: The bill specifies that a student 12 years of age or older may consent to participate in the mental health assessment even if the student's parents opts out.)

Line 4 in the summary was alarming to me and to others – that a student may still participate – even if the student's parents opts out ???

We have minimum ages and parental consent for a reason;

when it comes to getting a drivers license, entering into legal contracts... the list goes on. For a student to make this type of decision is beyond their scope of understanding.

So, allow me to say “Thank you!” Yes, you heard me correctly – thank you!
Thank you for doing your due diligence.

Each one of you recently took your oath of office – and for that I congratulate you. Now, as you hear each bill presented you **must** ask – is it constitutional?

Psalm 127:3 Children are a gift from the Lord, they are a reward from him.

(New Living Translation)

It is the parents’ job to parent their children – NOT the government, not anyone other than the parents, not even the child him or herself.

It is a God-given right that is reinforced by our Constitutions.

It is up to the parents to make the best decision for their child when it comes to their care.

(Then in Line 7: The bill authorizes the department to promulgate rules as necessary to implement and administer the program. This is a blank check. This opens a pandora’s box.)

With all due respect, HB23-1003 is unconstitutional as it overreaches way beyond the enumerated powers listed in both the US and State of Colorado Constitutions.

Thank you and God bless you!