

SUPPORT HB3662

“You Too Can Help Prevent Foster Care Kids Like Tristen From Being Over-Drugged!”

Children in foster care have, by definition, been through severe trauma--abused or neglected at home, separated from their parents, forced to live in institutions or in foster homes with people they don't even know.

It is a sad and tragic time when these needy, traumatized children are systematically hurt by their rescuers.

The system is hurting kids:

That is precisely what is happening when about 2/3 of teenage foster children are told they are mentally ill, and given psychotropic drugs that negatively effect various organ systems of their young, developing bodies.

The truth is that the ignominious, unscientific and dangerous practice of child psychiatric polypharmacy is systematically used on children in the DFPS system.

Over-Drugged:

Most of the time, the children

end up on several drugs because they are reacting badly to the first drug and more are added to suppress various troubling “side effects”; for example, sleeplessness or agitation due to stimulant drugs like Ritalin or Adderall, leading to tranquilizers on the one hand, or misdiagnosis as “bipolar” and antipsychotic drugs on the other.

With HB3662 the legislature can fix this:

This is a horrible reality, and it is now up to the state legislature to rein in a profession (child psychiatry) and an agency (DFPS) that have failed in their appointed mission to care for our state's children and families who need help.

Texas Foster Care Alumni:

In 2007, a local group of foster care alumni approached me with a desire to affect legislation on behalf of children who are following in their footsteps in the DFPS system.



“I went to see a psychiatrist and he put me on three types of pills, something to help my ‘anger,’ something to help my ‘depression’ and something to help me ‘relax’!

They said I was depressed...I mean, they just took the one thing that meant the most to me, and that was my family. How is a person supposed to be happy after someone he loves is taken from them?”

Tristen, Foster Care Alumni, Austin, Texas

TURN OVER...

They told me that top priority was to protect others from having to take as many psychotropic drugs as they had.

These young people worked hard in the 2007 session, but were unable to get a bill passed that directly addressed the systematic, unnecessary and harmful psychiatric drugging of foster children.

In this 2009 session, there is hope!

Representative Sylvester Turner is offering an ingenious piece of legislation to draw attention and oversight to the practice of giving several different psychotropic drugs—all toxic, all addictive, all dangerous—to our state’s foster children.

HB 3662 simply requires that if a child in the managing conservatorship of DFPS is prescribed three or more psychotropic drugs, that child’s case is referred for review by another physician who will determine whether that polypharmic package of drugs is consistent with appropriate standards of care.

Texans For Safe Education very strongly endorses this legislation. I urge all state legislators to rally behind our state’s foster youth and pass this important bill into law.



“Medication screws up your life... it has short term and long term effects... it can kill you! And some people it does.

We’re trying to get these medications lowered or even out of the system, to help our kids actually have normal lives.”

Kyle, Foster Care Alumni,
Austin, Texas

Please support HB3662 and help protect some of our most vulnerable, foster care kids!

John Breeding, PhD, Psychologist and Director
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