

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2008
PROCLAMATION FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AGAINST
PSYCHIATRIC SCREENING & DRUG ABUSE

TO THE STATE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
AND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS: There is a federal recommendation to screen all 52 million American schoolchildren for "mental disorders" based on the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM);

WHEREAS: The DSM is not based on science. It is compiled by the arbitrary votes of members of the American Psychiatric Association and in a significant departure from medical diagnosis, psychiatric diagnoses are categorized by *symptoms* only. When psychiatrists label someone, they do not have any laboratory test, blood or urine test, chemical imbalance test, x-ray or brain scan to substantiate their diagnosis;

WHEREAS: A 2006 study published in *Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics* determined that psychiatric drug makers funded 100% of the DSM Task Force members that decided what "mood" and "psychotic" disorders were included in the DSM. This year, the Senate Select Finance Committee called on the APA to hand over its financial records relating to pharmaceutical companies;

WHEREAS: At least 8 million children in the U.S. are taking psychotropic drugs known to cause suicide, psychosis, hallucinations, diabetes, liver damage, heart attacks, stroke and death (to name a few adverse reactions);

WHEREAS: One of the screening programs used on students is TeenScreen™ that has an 84 percent chance that children could be wrongly identified as suicidal or depressed, and thereby placed on antidepressants the Food and Drug Administration warns can cause suicidal thoughts and actions in those 24 years of age and under;

WHEREAS: The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, an independent panel of experts in primary care and prevention, "found no evidence that screening for suicide risk reduces suicide attempts or mortality." Behavioral screening and mind-altering drugs are being used instead of reinforcing educational basics;

WHEREAS: Parents and children are being denied information about alternatives to drug treatment for classroom or behavioral problems, such as nutritional, creative and educational solutions, and are not informed about the subjective, unscientific nature of behavioral questionnaires, thereby being denied the right to "informed consent";

THEREFORE: We, the undersigned, request that resources for TeenScreen and other psychological/psychiatric screening methods be reallocated to educational, non-drug programs and additional teachers or tutors.

Signature

Printed Name

Address

State

Zipcode