

SECURING RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN



CITIZENS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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“Efforts by organizations like Citizens Commission on Human Rights are vital if we are to succeed in returning our schools to places of learning. This can only be done by eliminating unworkable psychiatric or psychological curriculums and questionnaires, and by allowing our children, with the use of good academic instruction, to accomplish their grades and goals by using their inherent potential. My thanks to CCHR. Without your concern and help, the Colorado Resolution [against psychotropic drug use in classrooms] may never have been accomplished.”

Mrs. Patti Johnson
Member, Colorado State
Board of Education

The Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) has spearheaded significant reforms that protect children and parents against coercive psychiatric screening and drug practices. Parents, doctors, consumers and educators working with CCHR have taken steps to help protect children from invasive mental health screening and psychotropic drugs in schools. Those actions stemmed from a fatal day on April 20, 1999, when two teenagers Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold shot and killed 12 fellow students and a teacher at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. Harris was taking an antidepressant known to cause violent and suicidal behavior. Both teens had undergone psychological therapy, including “conflict resolution” and “anger management” classes.

In response, a precedent-setting Education Board resolution was passed that called on teachers to use academic rather than drug solutions for behavior, attention and learning difficulties in the classroom.

This led to other reforms across the nation and to countries around the world.

- Fourteen US state laws were passed that prevented school personnel from forcing children to take psychiatric drugs as a requisite for attending school.
- Other laws prohibited government Child Protective Service agencies from removing a child from the custody of his or her parents or criminally charging them because they refused to give their child psychiatric drugs.
- In 2004, the US Prohibition on Mandatory Medication amendment was passed prohibiting students being required to take a psychotropic drug to be educated.
- The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concerns that Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) “are being misdiagnosed and therefore psycho-stimulant drugs are being over-prescribed, despite growing evidence of the harmful effects of these drugs.” It recommended: “other forms of management and treatment be used as much as possible to address these....” behavioral issues.
- Parents testified before the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) hearings into antidepressants and in 2004, the FDA ordered a prominent “black box” be added to antidepressant packaging warning that the drugs could cause suicide in those people younger than 18 and later extending this to age 24. The UK, Japan, Australia and Europe’s Medicines Agency representing 25 countries, also issued suicide warnings.

- In 2006, the FDA ordered additional information to the packaging for psychostimulants to warn that they could cause psychosis, hallucinations, aggression, and sudden death from heart attacks and strokes. Other drug regulatory agencies around the world ordered similar warnings.
- In 2007, a law in Piedmonte, Italy prohibited mental health screening being conducted in schools. In 2008, Italy's federal Education Minister ordered school personnel to stop conducting ADHD and other psychiatric and psychological screening on students. Schools are not to be used to train teachers and parents were not on how to identify ADHD symptoms, which would lead to the child being prescribed psychotropic drugs. Several regional laws also prohibit mental health screening or children being forced onto psychiatric drugs. Several regions have made this law.
- In 2009, Mexico passed a similar law, "Reform of the General Education Act."
- Today, tens of thousands of lawsuits have been successfully filed and settled against psychiatric drug manufacturers and psychiatrists over the adverse reactions of these drugs.

"Resolution: Promoting the Use of Academic Solutions to Resolve Problems with Behavior, Attention, and Learning," Colorado State Board of Education, 11 Nov. 1999.

"Concluding Observations," UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Consideration of Reports submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention [on the rights of the child], 30 Sept. 2005.

Labeling Change Request Letter for Antidepressant Medications – FDA Letter, 15 Oct. 2004.

"Glaxo, Shire strengthen drug warnings, Firms say ADHD treatments may cause heart attacks," Bloomberg News, 22 Aug. 2006.

Consiglio Regionale Del Piemonte, Regional Law, "Regulations about the use of psychotropic substances on children and teenagers," 6 Nov. 2007

Diario Oficial de la Federacion, 17/04/2009: DECRETO por el que se adicionan las fracciones XIII, XIV y XV al artículo 75 y una fracción III al artículo 76 de la Ley General de Educación.