

**How the Texas Legislature's School Mental Health bills
violate Texas Republican Platform Principles
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SB 10 was born from the **Democrat Party Platform** ([Texas Kids First Plan](#)) and aims to convert our public schools into community mental health providers, offering up our children as training material for *"incentive programs to expand psychiatric residency programs,"* with the goal to *"rank Texas number 1 in mental and behavioral health and substance use disorder services in the nation."*

PREAMBLE to the Texas GOP Platform:

We believe **the traditional family is the strength of our nation**, and these MH bills violate and threaten the fabric of Judeo Christian values by violating the right of the parent to direct the social matters of the family because they expose children to psychiatric behavioral assessments conducted on school property by university departments of psychiatry via telehealth and telemedicine to "expand the psychiatric workforce through training and development opportunities." Combined, this renders **SB11, HB10/SB10, etc. in violation of the Texas Republican Platform Preamble principle that the traditional family is the strength of our nation.**

TX GOP Platform Principle #3:

Preserving American and Texas Sovereignty and Freedom

Informed parental consent is not merely a response of "yes" on a piece of paper, but rather in the case of SB11, SB10, HB10, etc., it is the UN-informed understanding that the privacy and freedom of the family could be at risk through a subjective psychiatric assessment performed on a child at a local public school, which under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) allows the sharing of personal data from children's psychiatric mental health assessments WITHOUT parental consent – if that entity can show a "legitimate educational interest," with a person or company with whom the district has contracted or allowed to provide a particular institutional service or function, including international entities (such as a consultant, third-party vendor that offers online programs or software, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, school resource officer, or volunteer); a parent or student serving on a school committee; or a parent or student assisting a school official in the performance of his or her duties; authorized representatives of various governmental agencies, including juvenile service providers, the U.S. Comptroller General's office, the U.S. Attorney General's office, the U.S. Secretary of Education, TEA, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's office, and Child Protective Services (CPS) caseworkers or other child welfare representatives, in certain cases; and individuals or entities granted access in response to a subpoena or court order. (Source: TWITR Project, at Ralls ISD; JoAnn's added note: [see this article](#) that states, "at the beginning of every school year, his group from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center goes into the schools and **trains every employee on how to see 'red flags.'** Everyone from teachers, custodians, cafeteria workers and bus drivers get trained on how to recognize a student possibly needing to be referred, how to make that referral and how to communicate that with the parent of the student.")

The Governor's School Safety recommendations referenced a training document from the Telemedicine Wellness Intervention Triage and Referral (TWITR) Project in which teachers were instructed in screening ("assessing") for suicide prior to obtaining parental consent. We believe any systematic protocol involving school personnel asking children about suicidal thoughts should require informed parental consent.

The TWITR Project Participation Authorization Form does not inform parents of what screenings will be

used, the risk of both false positives and false negatives, whether the screenings are reliable, or whether they've been tested on non-criminal populations.

Parents are told the information will be shared with school officials. The consent states the information will not be shared with others, **except in an emergency**.

<https://1.cdn.edl.io/9BnHQtwvWGyUXaijMAjzQPPrR0CcgYV7z58TKbaAZfZO6yhE.pdf>

But more importantly, what is a school official? According to the student handbook from one of the schools using TWITR, school officials include a variety of people you wouldn't expect, such as a consultant, third-party vendor that offers online programs or software. They only need to present a legitimate "educational interest." Unfortunately, the federal rules around that term are vague.

https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2004/privacy/section_4b.asp

Because Texas depends on federal funding with federal strings attached for at least 30% of her budget, the federal FERPA and its uninformed consent provision in these bills violates Principle #3 Preserving American and Texas sovereignty and freedom.

**Texas GOP Platform Principle #4:
Limiting government power to those items enumerated
in the United States and Texas Constitutions**

Nowhere in our United States and Texas Constitutions is the power granted to government to violate the above-mentioned principles while using taxpayer-funded government schools to subject our children to government sponsored psychiatric behavioral assessments in the name of research or training for the medical practice of psychiatry.

**Texas GOP Platform Principle #5:
Personal Accountability and Responsibility**

Personal accountability and responsibility are removed when the nanny-state assumes the role of parent and conducts mental and behavioral assessments on children without informed parental consent and shares that data with any entity that only needs to show a "legitimate educational interest."

**Texas GOP Platform Principle #7:
Having an educated population, with parents having
the freedom of choice for the education of their children**

Most parents, including those without the means to educate their children outside of the public system, are unaware of the dangers and could become victim to the mental and behavioral assessments on their children if parents do not comply with suggested medications or actions resulting from such assessments. They may well find Child Protective Services (CPS) on their doorstep. On February 27, 2019, Sgt. Wayne Sneed, Mental Health Supervisor for Austin Independent School District's Campus Police, testified that so far this school year the District has made 875 referrals to Child Protective Services related to mental health. Upon questioning, Sgt. Sneed referred to instances where parents denigrate or minimize their child's condition, triggering a CPS referral. Surprisingly, this public testimony was made in State Rep. Senfronia Thompson's committee while he was testifying "for" HB10!

See http://tlchouse.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=44&clip_id=16343 (approximately 21:00)

**Texas GOP Platform Principle #8:
The inalienable right of all people to defend themselves and their property**

Through subjective assessments on children, mental and behavioral interventionist actions could result in government denial and violation of family members' right to keep and bear arms.