



Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide

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The Honorable Dustin Miller, Chair
Louisiana Committee on Health and Welfare
April 6th 2026

Louisiana H.B. 775: Parental Consent Requirements for Minor Medical Care
(Chenevert) - Oppose

Dear Chairman Miller and members of the Louisiana Committee on Health and Welfare,

Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide (SPAN) appreciates the intent of, but we respectfully oppose Louisiana House Bill 775, which seeks to require parental consent for nearly all medical and mental health services provided to minors until age 17. Additionally it repeals existing provisions allowing minors to independently consent to certain healthcare services.

For the reasons listed below, we respectfully oppose this bill, and would like major changes to this bill before we are able to support it

1. Risks Endangering Healthcare Access

H.B. 775 requires parental consent for nearly all medical and mental health services provided to minors, which creates a major barrier to care. Adolescents might stop seeking treatment for sensitive issues such as mental health, sexual health, or substance use if they fear parental involvement.

2. Mental Health Crisis Worsens



Adolescents already face high rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts. Requiring parental consent prevents many teens from accessing therapy or counseling. In fact research shows that teens are significantly less likely to access mental health treatment when parental consent is required (1) If teenagers don't have access to therapy or counseling it will lead to an increased suicide risk and untreated mental illness. (2) Furthermore, limiting access to counseling and mental health interventions can result in long-term consequences, including chronic mental illness, academic difficulties, social isolation, and strained family relationships.

3. Harms Vulnerable Youth

This bill doesn't adequately account for minors in unsafe or unsupportive households. Teens experiencing abuse, neglect, or family conflict may lose access to essential healthcare services under this law. Even though H.B. 775 includes narrow exceptions many at-risk adolescents would still be blocked from care, putting their health and safety at risk

4. Removes Early Intervention

H.B. 775 removes the authority that schools and healthcare facilities have to provide counseling or treatment without parental consent. Early intervention programs, including counseling and preventive screenings, are proven to reduce long-term health risks and costs. Limiting these services will likely lead to more severe health issues later in life.

For all of these reasons, SPAN respectfully urges the committee to reconsider H.B. 775 and explore alternative ways to support parental involvement. While SPAN understands that parents' involvement in healthcare is important, access to essential medical and



mental health services for minors must remain a top priority. H.B. 775 would put that care further out of reach for many adolescents, undermine patient protections, and increase inequities among vulnerable youth. SPAN urges the Louisiana legislature to reject this bill and instead to pursue policies that support the health and well-being of all minors.

Sincerely,

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Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide (SPAN)



Sources

1. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7276447/>
2. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/adolescent-mental-health>