

Resolution on School Surveys/Mental Health Screeners and Parental Consent

Whereas, mental health screeners and surveys can produce false positives or other bad results, including the psychiatric labeling and drugging of a child; and

Whereas, some school districts have had hundreds of children transported to psychiatric hospitals without parental consent; and

Whereas, mental health screeners are controversial, causing some school personnel to mislead parents by calling them other things such as “surveys,” or “check-ins,” these activities should not be done without parental consent; and

Whereas, the legislature has previously forwarded legislation to strengthen Texas Education Code Sec. 26.009, such that school districts cannot conduct such activities while calling them something else (see SB595 88th Regular Session); and

Whereas, the Texas Education Agency has forwarded materials informing schools on how to get around parental consent for such screenings, check-ins, or surveys; and

Whereas, the Texas Education Agency supports Universal screening of students;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Republican Party of Texas opposes mental or emotional or wellbeing surveys, screenings, or check-ins and implores the legislature to adopt parental consent prior to ANY psychological questions. In addition to rights-implications, these activities represent an invasion of privacy. If such activities must be done in a school setting, general education students shall be afforded the same stringent due process, parental rights protections, and procedural safeguards as students enrolled in Special Education. The legislature should adopt firm penalties for violation of parental rights in school health or mental health services.

A copy of this resolution should be sent to the _____ County/Senate District # _____ Convention Resolutions Committee from Precinct # _____ with the recommendation that it be passed and sent to the State Convention Platform Committee of the _____ Party of Texas.