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## NEWS

### Rally held to defeat children's mental health bill



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Story filed by NewsCenter16 Reporter  
[Stephanie Stang](#)

[Nappanee, IN](#) - A local state legislator is trying to stop a bill in its tracks before it even gets any support on the Senate or House floor.

Sunday, State Representative Jackie Walorski hosted a rally that focused on a proposed law that revolves around mental health testing for children.

This bill isn't even a bill yet, but it could be one come this January.

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Right now, it's just a plan that the Indiana Department of Education put together called the Children's Social, Emotional and Behavioral Health Plan.

Sunday, more than 300 people gathered in Nappanee to hear about the plan.

The founder of Advance America, Eric Miller, was the keynote speaker.

Miller and Walorski talked about the need to keep this plan from gaining any support in the Indiana General Assembly.

According to Walorski, the bill paves the way for every Indiana child to undergo mental health testing.

"The problem with it is it has the ability to steamroll parental rights on mental health issues. [We've] got to stop it before it gets much steam," she says.

Miller agrees. "We believe that issues involving children should be left with parents. We do not believe government should mandate mental health. We believe if [parents] know about the problem, then they will be the ones to take care of that," he says.

At the rally, people had the chance to sign a petition against the bill.

Walorski says she would like to take a petition with at least 10,000 signatures to the House speaker this January.

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