



Kansas City Star  
Aug. 28, 2006  
LETTERS

Students' mental health

In response to "What is schools' duty in children's mental health?" by David Chartrand (8/23, As I See It): The overdue national discussion about a school's duty in regard to the mental health of children has been cooking for a couple of years, ever since President Bush decided every child in the United States should be screened for mental illness, per the recommendations in his "New Freedom Commission."

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force found there is no evidence that screening for suicide works. Therefore the Shawnee Mission School District is correct in its legal argument that suicide is "unforeseeable" and that it has no duty to prevent it.

Chartrand asks: "Do we want schools, governments or anyone else meddling with the mental health of our kids?" The answer is no.

Look at the epidemic of child drugging in the country already — courtesy of schools, the government and the relentless push by pharmaceutical advertising.

If the district announced tomorrow that it planned to institute mental health screenings for all students, parents would immediately mobilize and cause so much of an uproar that the shouting match in Kansas over evolution in schools would be moved to the back burner.

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