More mental health screening a bad idea

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Richard Nangle's one-sided article, "Voices speak for mentally ill youth; advocates say state lax over aide," pushes the state to fund more and more psychiatric labeling and drugging for children and adults. In the article, he fails to mention that the two key legislators pushing for more mental health screening of children and other mental health initiatives, Reps. Kay Khan (psychiatric nurse whose husband is a psychiatrist who owns Bournewood Psychiatric Hospital) and Ruth Balser (psychologist), have vested financial interests.

Mr. Nangle pushes the idea that more childhood mental health screening is needed, although the tests are very subjective and could get almost any child labeled as having a mental disorder. These mental disorder labels are just lists of behaviors that stigmatize children for life. They are not real diseases like diabetes and cancer that are diagnosed with objective medical and lab tests. I think that it was smart of the Romney administration to ignore these legislative initiatives to label more people, especially children, as mentally ill. The drugs psychiatry doles out, from Ritalin, to antidepressants to tranquilizers, merely mask behaviors, have horrific side effects and only cover up behavior. They never really cure anyone. In other words, psychiatry's drugs are really like alcohol or street drugs.