

ROLL CALL VOTE

Prohibition for Federal Funding for Universal Mental Health Screening

Action on the floor of the United States House of Representatives on **Amendment A024**, of the "**Labor, health and Human Services, and Education appropriations act, 2005**," **H.R. 5006**.

9/9/2004

AMENDMENT PURPOSE:

An amendment numbered 3 printed in the Congressional Record to prohibit use of funds in the bill to create or implement any new or universal mental health screening program.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 3 offered by Mr. *Paul*:

None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to create or implement any new universal mental health screening program.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, my amendment says that no funds in this bill will be permitted to be used to institute system of universal mental health screening. The New Freedoms Commission on Mental Health, a commission established in 2002, has recommended universal mental health screening for all our children in our public schools as well as adults who work in these schools. As a medical doctor, as a civil libertarian, and a strict constitutionist, I strongly reject this notion, this plan, as dangerous and nonproductive.

This type of screening would surely lead to a lot more treatment of hyperactive kids. We already have an epidemic in our schools today that are overtreated. Too often under these conditions, children are coerced into taking medicine. It has been known that parents who have denied medication for their children have been accused of child abuse. There is already tremendous pressure on parents to allow public school officials to put children on medication like Ritalin.

This amendment would not deny, in the routine course of events, medical treatment for those who are suffering from mental disease. What my concern is for a universal screening test of all children for mental illness.

Diagnosis in psychiatry is mostly subjective. It is very difficult to come up with objective criteria. If we wanted psychiatrists to perform the test to make it more objective, it would be impossible. We are talking about an unbelievable number of psychiatrists that are not available, so nonpsychiatrists would be doing this testing.

One of the worst downsides from a program like this would be for a child to be put on a list as having some type of mental disorder.

An unruly child is going to be the first one to be determined as mentally disturbed. It is happening all the time. Those are the individuals that are hyperactive even in a normal sense and end up on Ritalin.

But can you imagine a list of this sort? They claim it will be private, but can you imagine if there is a list that has identified an individual as a possible candidate for violence? And what if he were to be hired by an important industry? What if the post office was to hire this individual and he was on this list and we did not make this information available to the hiring authorities? That means there would be tremendous pressure to make public officials use this list for reasons that I think would be very, very negative.

The whole notion of testing children to me represents a principle even more intrusive than a mandatory blood test. It would make more sense medically to have a blood test for, say, AIDS, if you thought it was the responsibility of the Federal Government to take this job upon themselves. But, no, if we tried to do this in the area of mental diseases, believe me, the criteria would be way too arbitrary. A diagnosis will be too difficult to determine with a set of objective standards. .

FINAL VOTE RESULTS FOR ROLL CALL 438

(Republicans in roman; Democrats in *italic*; Independents underlined)

H R 5006 RECORDED VOTE 9-Sep-2004 4:54 PM

AUTHOR(S): Paul of Texas Amendment No. 3

QUESTION: On Agreeing to the Amendment

	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NOES</u>	PRES	<u>NV</u>
REPUBLICAN	94	118		15
DEMOCRATIC	1	196		8
INDEPENDENT		1		
TOTALS	95	315		23

---- AYES 95 ---

Aderholt	Everett	Neugebauer
Akin	Feeney	Norwood
Barrett (SC)	Flake	Ose
Bartlett (MD)	Forbes	Otter
Biggert	Franks (AZ)	Paul
Bilirakis	Garrett (NJ)	Pence

Bishop (UT)	Goode	Petri
Blackburn	Goodlatte	Pitts
Bonner	Graves	Pombo
Boozman	Green (WI)	Ramstad
Brady (TX)	Gutknecht	Rogers (MI)
Brown-Waite, Ginny	Hart	Rohrabacher
Burgess	Hayes	Royce
Burns	Hefley	Ryan (WI)
Burton (IN)	Hensarling	Ryun (KS)
Camp	Herger	Sensenbrenner
Cantor	Hoekstra	Sessions
Chabot	Hostettler	Shadegg
Chocola	Hunter	Simpson
Coble	Johnson (IL)	Smith (MI)
Cole	Jones (NC)	Souder
Collins	Kennedy (MN)	Stearns
Cox	King (IA)	Sullivan
Crane	Kingston	Tancredo
Cubin	Linder	<i>Taylor (MS)</i>
Culberson	Manzullo	Terry
Davis, Jo Ann	McCotter	Thornberry
Deal (GA)	Miller (FL)	Tiahrt
DeLay	Miller (MI)	Upton
DeMint	Miller, Gary	Vitter
Doolittle	Musgrave	Whitfield
Duncan	Myrick	

---- NOES 315 ---

<i>Abercrombie</i>	Granger	Nussle
<i>Ackerman</i>	<i>Green (TX)</i>	<i>Oberstar</i>
Alexander	<i>Grijalva</i>	<i>Obey</i>
<i>Allen</i>	<i>Gutierrez</i>	<i>Olver</i>
<i>Andrews</i>	Hall	<i>Ortiz</i>
<i>Baca</i>	<i>Harman</i>	Osborne
Bachus	Harris	<i>Owens</i>
<i>Baird</i>	<i>Hastings (FL)</i>	Oxley
Baker	Hastings (WA)	<i>Pallone</i>
<i>Baldwin</i>	Hayworth	<i>Pascrell</i>
Barton (TX)	<i>Herseth</i>	<i>Pastor</i>
Bass	<i>Hill</i>	<i>Payne</i>
Beauprez	<i>Hinchey</i>	Pearce
<i>Becerra</i>	<i>Hinojosa</i>	<i>Pelosi</i>
<i>Bell</i>	Hobson	<i>Peterson (MN)</i>
<i>Berkley</i>	<i>Hoefel</i>	Peterson (PA)

Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Burr
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carson (IN)
Carson (OK)
Carter
Case
Castle
Chandler
Clay
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)

Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley (OR)
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hyde
Inslee
Isakson
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (OH)
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (NY)
Kirk
Kleczka
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaHood
Lampson
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)

Pickering
Platts
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Sabo
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Sandlin
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Simmons
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)

Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley (CA)
Doyle
Dreier
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Foley
Ford
Fossella
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gonzalez
Gordon

Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lynch
Majette
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Ney
Northup
Nunes

Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Sweeney
Tauscher
Taylor (NC)
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner (OH)
Turner (TX)
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (FL)

Ballenger

Cannon

Delahunt

Gephardt

Goss

Greenwood

Istook

Kanjorski

Langevin

Lucas (OK)

McInnis

McNulty

Moran (KS)

Nethercutt

Quinn

Rush

Ryan (OH)

Schrock

Shuster

Tanner

Tauzin

Toomey

Young (AK)