

Forced Drugging and Special Services: A Holocaust in America's Schools

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Thousands of children across the nation are being poisoned, legally, by psychotropic and other medication that causes devastating health consequences and death. This "drugging" of America's school children occurs in order to control behavior and attentional deficits in classroom environments.

Quite often, parents are coerced into allowing their children to be medicated as a condition for receiving special education and other remedial services. However, this practice is expressly forbidden by federal law. On December 3, 2004, President Bush signed the "Prohibition on Mandatory Medication Amendment", as part of the most recent reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The Amendment "requires schools to implement policies that prohibit schoolchildren being forced onto psychiatric drugs as a requisite for their education". Nevertheless, the author has witnessed endless violations of this Law, including within New Jersey's schools.

According to a web-based analysis, published at the time that the President signed the "anti-forced drugging" Amendment:

Hundreds of parents across America have been pressured to put their school-aged children onto cocaine-like stimulants or antidepressants for which the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has just ordered a "black box label" warning of the drugs' high risk of causing suicide among children and adolescents. Ms. Kelly Preston, who met with members of Congress in June last year to enlist support of the amendment, said, "Every mother has an inherent right to protect her child from harm. However, many mothers have been denied that right because psychiatrists have inundated unwitting teachers with the false opinion that educational and behavioral problems are symptoms of 'mental disorders' that require mind-altering drugs. This law gives hope for a new era in education, one where teachers are free to work with parents to find academic solutions instead of unworkable and harmful psychiatric treatments that benefit no one but the psychiatric industry."

United States Congressman Ron Paul of Texas is also a physician. In a letter to the Congress, he has stated that:

psychotropic drugs are increasingly prescribed for children who show nothing more than children's typical rambunctious behavior. Many children have suffered harmful effects from these drugs."

According to Jennifer Corbett Dooren (2006) of the Wall Street Journal Online:

The Food and Drug Administration is calling for stronger warnings to discuss reports of psychosis or mania seen with drugs used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. For the past year, the agency has been studying psychiatric and cardiovascular risks possibly associated with the drugs. The FDA review was posted to the agency's Web site yesterday in advance of next week's panel meeting of outside medical experts who will discuss the drugs.

Last month, another panel recommended that most of the drugs carry a black-box warning about possible links to heart attacks and strokes. Adderall already carries such a warning, discussing cardiac sudden death; Strattera has one about an increase in suicidal thinking. A black box is the FDA's strictest warning.

Dr. Karen Effrem, a pediatrician who has argued against medicating school children with learning and behavioral disorders, warns about the toxicity and other negative side effects of the drugs. According to Dr. Effrem:

Most psychiatric medications do not work in children – Medical textbooks, published and unpublished research, and government reports consistently state that the long term safety and effectiveness of antidepressants like Prozac and stimulants like Ritalin have yet to be proven.

The side effects of these medications in children are severe – They include suicide and violence from the new antidepressants; cardiac (heart) toxicity from the older antidepressants; growth suppression, psychosis, and violence from stimulants; and diabetes from the newer anti-psychotic medications. Several school shooters, like Eric Harris (Columbine), Kip Kinkel (Oregon), and Jason Hoffman (San Diego) were on antidepressants or stimulants or both at the time of their crimes.

Often, parents are not made aware of the side effects of drugs at the time that they are asked to approve medicating their child. Nevertheless, a physician may recommend the administration of Ritalin, for example, without informing the parent that the

medication may significantly “stunt the growth” of the child. Dr. Peter Breggin, a psychiatrist and retired professor of medicine at Harvard and Johns Hopkins Universities, suggests that parents are often pressured into having their child medicated by school personnel. In his book, “Talking Back to Ritalin”, Dr. Breggin points out that:

Even parents who dislike the idea of giving drugs to their children are feeling pressured to go along with it. Teachers may explain that many of their pupils are helped by stimulants. Friends may claim that Ritalin has helped their children. Doubting their own intuition and judgment, these parents may fear that they are depriving their children of a legitimate medical treatment that could improve their child’s health

Dr. Breggin also points out that Ritalin may be the most over-used drug in America. According to Dr. Breggin:

America now use 90% of the world’s Ritalin – more than five times the rest of the world combined. Meanwhile, emergency room visits by children age 10-14 involving Ritalin intoxication have now reached the same level as those for cocaine. This indicates escalating abuse of this highly addictive drug.

A large segment of America’s children are being subjected to drugs to control their minds and behavior. Nothing like this has ever happened in the history of any society or nation. Never before have so many parents been told that their children need psychiatric drug treatment for difficulties at school and in the home. Ritalin has become so ingrained in society that some parents have been forced by courts to give the drug to their children.

Jim Gottstein, a Harvard trained lawyer and the founder and director of “PsychRights”, an advocacy organization that is dedicated to preserving the constitutional and civil rights of people with mental disabilities, also warns of the danger of administering psychotropic medication to children. As Mr. Gottstein indicates:

Children are always subject to forced psychiatric drugging. The decision is not theirs, but in the hands of parents and other adults who have not been told the truth or whose agenda is not in the best interest of the child.

As these consummate professionals communicate their message and warning of danger to an entire generation, it is time for school personnel, parents, and government officials to join together to save the lives and ensure the health of America’s children.