

Dear Commissioner

16 January 2020

I am writing to object to the proposal to screen for 'mental illnesses' babies. It has come to my attention that the government is looking at implementing screening babies and children up to 3 years of age under using early detection as the reason for this

As a mother and like any mother, babies are not easy to raise and sometimes just raising them as 'normal' is difficult; they get hungry and become grumpy, they get tired and can be a handful and sometimes they express moods because of teething or something similar which they are not happy about, this is normal behavior;

I feel it is irresponsible mothers looking for a way out not knowing how to deal with parenthood that would take their babies for screening.

It would be even more irresponsible to give them drugs which I am assuming goes along with the screening.

I would not want my children to be screened for something that, honestly how can mental illness detected in a baby, I took my child to the doctor when he wasn't well and the doctor had a hard time finding the true cause of his temperature writing it off as a 'virus' and if he had a hard time, how are you ever going to find a vague and elusive thing like mental illness.

As a mother I strongly object to this and strongly object to what is being done in the field of mental health; there is just way too many young children, teenagers, adults now on anti-depressives than ever before and I am not seeing any improvement in their behavior, in fact the kids of today are more rude and disrespectful than ever.

My son recently told me that more than half his class was taking one form of anti-depressant or another. This doesn't seem right. Have we steered so far away from 'normal' that everything now is a mental illness and that is the problem I believe, everything that can be a mental illness can be one and the sad part of it is ; it takes only the opinion of a doctor to say it is so.

I have had my problems in life and my parents had their problems and through the generations we had our problems; it is life. When I was growing up it was normal for some kids to be more stubborn than others, it was normal for some babies to cry more than others, it was normal that some children experienced more hardships than others. It isn't going to change.

Drugs won't suddenly make the problems we have go away; it never has and it never will.

Many times when my kids are crying because of some pain that I wanted to give them something to ease the pain, put them on medicine to stop them from crying; stop their constant unrelenting cries. But all I did was be a mother and do my job which was to give them love, respect and help them through it.

Today I see mothers and father had the child an iPad who then spends hours and hours on this; then give some medicine if the kids make too much noise. Lazy parenting and mothers of this

sort is what such screening will appeal to, they don't know how to be a mother and so they just palm the kids off.

Stop the screening of kids. It is senseless.

Regards,