

22 January 2020

## SUBMISSION

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you in regards to the proposal of checking the O-3 year old age group for social and emotional wellbeing. I am concerned on such a proposal because I see this as an opportunity to “label” or put “categorize” children. With this opens a chance to treat people a certain way which may be unfair in their best interest. I had a friend who was turned down from a joining a police force because of an assessment that put her in position to not be “mentally stable” due to a past depression situation she experienced. I also see doing this kind of assessment open the door for other ways to help handle any social and emotional shortcomings such as pharmaceutical medications. These have side effects and there have been people I know that have lost their spirituality and gone downhill more so when getting on them. The idea this could occur with a child is too daunting. This is our future generation we are looking at here.

As an Auntie for many of my nieces and nephews I know children need love and care which is the most successful way to ensure social and emotional well-being is maintained in my experience. While some may think other modalities are needed to care for those who seem “impossible” to get their social and emotional well-being under control, I find it will add more complexities to an individual’s life. There is already enough in ineffective solutions that end up creating more problems than needed and it comes as the cost of people losing their loved ones.

I come from the fitness industry and have observed firsthand what the estimation of effort requires to care for someone. This care involved taking the time to get communication with the individual and keeping them motivated on being physically active and the results are immeasurable. These people varied with low self-esteem to super hyperactivity so I have some understanding of various personalities. Therefore I am not in support of this proposal and disagree that it should be accepted.

I look forward to your reply.

Kindest Regards

Leah Hutching