

April 10, 2024

To the House Committee on Education,

I will open by sharing an excerpt from an article:

*"Big Brother is a character and symbol in George Orwell's dystopian 1949 novel Nineteen Eighty-Four. He is ostensibly the leader of Oceania, a totalitarian state wherein the ruling party, Ingsoc, wields total power "for its own sake" over the inhabitants."*

(Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big\\_Brother\\_\(Nineteen\\_Eighty-Four\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Brother_(Nineteen_Eighty-Four)), on 4/9/2024)

My name is Angel Lopez. I am an unofficial advocate for Providence, and I attest my biometric information is not for sale. I write to you today in opposition to House Bill 7781. The bill as written will allow the creation of an application mentioned on page 2 lines 19 & 20, that when filed with a competent court and competent jurisdiction may deny a parent access and review of their own child's medical records. Referring to medical records that originate within a Public School in this state and include DNA & other types of biometric information for the purpose of creating a record to be stored and shared.

I refer you all to Title 20 of the US Code Chapter 31 Titled General Provisions Concerning Education. Section 1232g states that no funding will be made available to any educational institution that shares the information of minors without parental consent. The legislation in question this evening will supersede federal law with the creation of a mechanism that aims to coerce consent from parents all over this state that depend on Public Education.

To make things worse, lines 30 to 34 on page 2 describe circumstances where students in Public Schools will be recorded via video or audio during normal education and extra-curricular activities that occur on school grounds. There are purposefully no redlines, hard stops or recommendations included in the language of this bill to limit the recordings because that clarity will be decided by the school districts. The recordings will be

## Angel's Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 7781 Parents Bill of Rights Act

considered education records according to the federal law I mentioned previously. As a product of the Providence School system and an Alumni of Boston College, the intentions behind this bill are repulsive. To support my perspective, there are two separate clauses that clarify that this legislation is not intended to imply or apply to “*a parental action or decision that would end life.*” The clause can be found on page 3 line 10 and again on line 24).

House Education Committee, I ask all of you to stop House Bill 7781. It is 2024, an election year, and we should not be discussing psychological control over students sugar coated with the phrase Parents Bill of Rights. Federal, State, and Municipal funds should be spent on building healthy educational facilities and programs that develop and prepare the youth to tackle the challenges our communities will face tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Angel Lopez  
*Resident of Providence*