

## **Information for the Enhancement of Informed Consent**

**WARNING:** Withdrawal from psychiatric drugs (ADHD medicines) should be under the care of a physician to avoid serious to life-threatening health problems.

**THE MISDIAGNOSING AND PSYCHIATRIC DRUGGING OF CHILDREN ARE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.**

**The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child has issued a strong warning against falsely labeling youth with the psychiatric diagnosis of ADHD and administering powerful ADHD drugs. The committee urges that other forms of management and treatment be used to address difficult behavior in children. The Commission recommended against the prescription of these drugs for anyone under 18.**

Some harmful effects caused by Ritalin, Adderall, and similar stimulants are suicidal behavior, psychosis, hostility, aggression, heart problems, disturbed sexual function, and headaches.

The Virginia School Boards Association wrote to the American Medical Association (AMA) in 2006 asking several questions. One question was, "Are there straight forward diagnostic procedures for these disease categories such that very few false positives result?" False positives mean that the children will be told they have ADHD when they do not. AMA did not answer the question. Some references estimate that 90% of the children told they have ADHD do not have a mental health problem.

**THE AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION LISTS ADHD IN ITS CATEGORY OF MAJOR MENTAL ILLNESSES. WHEN YOU AGREE THAT YOU BELIEVE YOUR CHILD HAS ADHD, YOU ARE AGREEING THAT YOU BELIEVE THE CHILD IS MENTALLY ILL.**

Autism is defined as a severe disorder (illness) of brain function which includes bizarre responses to the environment. Autism is a lifelong disorder that interferes with the ability to understand what is seen, heard, and touched.

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References from which these statements are quoted are available in the following Portsmouth Public School Division Offices: Pupil Personnel Services and the Instructional Resources Center, 3651 Hartford Street, Portsmouth 23707; and S. H. Clarke Administrative Building, 2801 Turnpike Road, Portsmouth, VA 23707.