

use of psychotropic drugs, Dr. Breggin cited an example which was extremely well-documented, in which giving one of the newer drugs gave rise to violent urges. When this patient was taken off the drug, the violent urges disappeared, but returned when the drug was restored. He also cited the most famous cases of multiple school-shootings in recent years, committed by children who were on psychotropic drugs.

The author participated in a recent panel discussion in which a physician defended the use of Ritalin, asserting that she administered the drug at the same time that she conducted psychotherapy. I responded that this practice was exceptional; in nearly all cases, the drug is given without any psychotherapy, and this practice of using medication alone, is encouraged by the health maintenance organizations that provide payments to the therapist, since the HMOs do not want to have to pay for any psychotherapy. Thus, the problem of whether the drugs are inducing violence, could be much better assessed if anyone getting such drugs were also being given the necessary psychotherapy. In the example cited by Dr. Breggin, the patient who reported the violent thoughts was being seen regularly by a therapist. If someone is in a relationship with a therapist, that person will be much more inclined to discuss their violent or suicidal thoughts. The fact that people are given these drugs without close supervision in the form of psychotherapy, says a lot about what is wrong.

Early this year, there appeared a report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, which cited the increasing use of Ritalin and other psychotropic drugs with children under six, often children under one year of age. It is the HMOs which encourage this, by paying for such inappropriate forms of drugging. The instructions that accompany Ritalin from the drug manufacturers say that the drug is not intended for children under six.

Six States Introduce Anti-Drug Legislation

by Suzanne Klebe and Michele Steinberg

On March 2, 2000, New Jersey Assemblywoman Marion Crecco (R-District 34) introduced hard-hitting legislation to stop the flood of Ritalin and other psychiatric drugs being pushed on America's students. On Sept. 24, Assemblywoman Crecco, who serves as the Deputy Speaker of the New Jersey Assembly, addressed the conference called by Dr. Peter Breggin's International Center for the Study of Psychiatry and Psychology, in a speech titled "New Legislation, Children, and Medication Abuses." Since then, she has participated in radio debates, and a political offensive to

stop the needless—and dangerous—drugging of America's children.

The New Jersey bill is part of a growing national reaction against the rampant abuse of psychiatric drugs in the United States. As *EIR* reported on March 24, 2000 (Michele Steinberg, "The New Violence: America's Kids Are Victims of Menticide"), between 6 and 11 million children under 18 years old—some as young on 12 *months*—are being given dangerous, addictive, psychiatric drugs for supposed behavioral problems. Now, legislation has been introduced in New York, New Jersey, Idaho, Arizona, California, and Massachusetts to restrict the *forcing* of Ritalin and other dangerous drugs on families.

As Mrs. Crecco's bill addresses, Ritalin is being forced upon families, even where parents have tried to object. While the New Jersey legislation has not yet passed the state house, more and more support is building around the country for this type of legislation. By next year, such legislation is expected to be hotly debated in the U.S. Congress as well.

Here is the text of the New Jersey resolution:

Assembly, No. 2170, State of New Jersey, 209th Legislature

As introduced:

An Act concerning certain medications for school pupils and supplementing chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

Be It Enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. The Legislature finds and declares that there is deep concern over the increased use of medication to control behavior in school children, that there are documented incidences of highly negative consequences in which prescription drugs have been insisted upon by educators who have overridden parents' wishes; and that these medications have been utilized for what are essentially problems of discipline that may be related to lack of academic success, family difficulties, and other factors.

2. School personnel should not recommend, encourage, or discuss medication for school pupils with either the pupil or the pupil's parents. School personnel should respect the parent's right to refuse psychiatric medicine for their children and should not suggest nor insist that medication be required for a child's participation in any aspect of school.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

The Statement

This bill prohibits school personnel from recommending, encouraging, or discussing medication for school pupils, with either the pupil or the pupil's parents.

In addition, the bill provides that school personnel should respect parents' rights to refuse psychiatric medication for their children and shall not suggest, nor insist that medication is required for a child's participation in any aspect of school.