



LEGISLATIVE ALERT
ATTACK ON STUDENTS' PRIVACY RIGHTS: RANDOM DRUG TESTING
OPPOSE HB 3200/SB 2621

What HB 3200/SB 2621 do - These bills authorize school boards to implement random drug testing policies for all students who participate in voluntary extracurricular activities.

ACLU of Tennessee opposes these bills because:

- Random drug testing in schools has been proven to be ineffective in deterring drug use among young people. A national study on student drug testing published in the April 2003 *Journal of School Health* found no difference in rates of drug use between schools with drug testing programs and those without.
- Extracurricular activities are a proven means of helping students stay out of trouble with drugs. However, random drug testing may prevent some students from participating in these activities because of the embarrassment of the drug test and the possibility of false positives. Additionally, after school programs provide students who are experimenting with or misusing drugs with productive activities and contact with trusted adults and peers who can help them identify and address problematic drug use.
- Random drug testing in schools has a negative impact on the school environment by undermining relationships of trust between students and teachers, coaches and administrators. Random drug testing can create an atmosphere of "us v. them," with students no longer feeling like they can confide in those who are also policing them.
- Random drug testing infringes upon students' privacy rights. In order to eliminate tampering with the sample, the bill requires that a witness be present when the student is creating the sample. In addition, in order to ensure against the possibility of false positives, schools often ask students to identify their prescription medications before taking a drug test. Many schools that have implemented random drug testing policies have not taken the proper measures to protect this private information. Additionally, students who are suddenly suspended from activities have the stigma of being drug users, whether they are or not.
- Tennessee already has a law allowing student drug testing of public high school students when there is reasonable suspicion that the student may have used or be under the influence of drugs. There is no need for additional laws.

What you can do: Call your state senator and house representative and ask them to Vote NO on these bills. The easiest way to contact your legislators is to visit <http://www.capitol.tn.gov>, go to "Find My Legislator," put in your address and click "search."