



900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 600  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212  
(785) 296-3203  
www.ksde.org

Danny Zeck  
District 1

Melanie Haas  
District 2

Michelle Dombrosky  
District 3

Ann E. Mah  
District 4

Cathy Hopkins  
District 5

Dr. Deena Horst  
District 6

Dennis Hershberger  
District 7

Betty J. Arnold  
District 8

Jim Porter  
District 9

Jim McNiece  
District 10

## Proponent Testimony

**HB 2444 - AN ACT concerning school districts; relating to the state department of education and the state's network of community mental health centers; establishing the mental health intervention team program in state statute; providing incentives for coordination between school districts and community mental health centers; creating the mental health intervention team program fund.**

**Provided by**

**Dr. Deena Horst and Ann Mah, Legislative Liaisons  
Kansas State Board of Education**

**To**

**Committee on K-12 Education Budget**

**March 8, 2023**

CHAIR WILLIAMS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

The Kansas State Board of Education supports the legislation that moves the mental health intervention team program from pilot status to permanent status within each school district. School-based mental health services are important to meeting the many mental and behavioral health needs that impede a student's ability to learn. When these services are provided in school, many barriers to treatment, such as transportation, parents missing work, children losing instructional time and funding, are removed.

Thank you for allowing us to express our support of this program expansion to all Kansas districts.

*Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.*