

Chelsea Johnson Bagwell

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HB 2034: Authorizing school districts to employ chaplains or accept such persons as volunteers.

Opponent

Written Only

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My name is Chelsea Johnson Bagwell and I am a school counselor in USD 497 Lawrence.

Public schools should provide support services that are inclusive, evidence-based, and appropriate for all students. Allowing chaplains to serve as volunteers in schools blurs the line between church and state and risks introducing religious influence into environments meant to serve students of all beliefs and backgrounds.

This bill could also undermine the role of trained school counselors and social workers who are held to professional standards, licensure requirements, and ethical guidelines designed to protect student well-being. Students deserve access to qualified mental health professionals.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 2034. Thank you for your time and consideration.