

Hi I am Braylen Bollig, I first want to thank you for letting me testify today. I am here today to testify for a Chaplain in Kansas schools. I am a freshman in high school and a first year homeschooler this year after many struggles with the school not only because of the staff but also the students. I think that if there was a chaplain in our school that it would have been very beneficial to me and also to help benefit the behavioral issues and bullying with others in the school. I have a rare genetic condition called a Urea Cycle Disorder (UCD) that requires me to take daily medication and restricts me to only have a certain amount of protein at each meal. It could be life threatening if I am not allowed to have what I need because I'm on a daily low protein diet. I went to the USD 241 school and had many issues with my disorder and the school following doctors' orders when it came to my medicine and diet restrictions. As a student that has to take medication at school and be on a low protein diet, the school was notified from my doctor and it was written into my 504 plan. We asked if on days that there was too much protein in the daily offered meal I would be allowed a salad or something with lower protein. The kitchen staff fought it - even questioning me in front of other kids why I couldn't eat the same food as other students. That was very very embarrassing to me and then that started making kids question me. I know that if there was a chaplain in the school that I could go to and express my feelings to at this time it would have helped me tremendously . It was a very hard thing for me to go through and still to this day it affects me. My parents then got involved and it was still not resolved, so my doctors got involved. This issue was finally resolved after a very intense 504 meeting between us all. With that being said, in my experience I think that if I had a Chaplain to go to at this time it would have been very very beneficial to me. Having chaplains not only helps with better education but also better mental health. I feel that if I had a Chaplain to go to at this time, it would have been a safe person to talk to about my struggles and they could have prayed with

me about it and understood my situation. Some people may think, “why do I need a chaplain or why would I want to spend time with a chaplain” but it is true that engaging in a meaningful conversation boosts your happiness. I know that is where chaplains would come in and play a huge role. Chaplains in the school would be a great resource for all kids feeling how I felt - sad, frustrated, misunderstood, and singled out. I want to once again thank you for letting me come and give my testimony today and hope that my testimony can help others and bring Chaplains into schools in Kansas.

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