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Proponent Testimony on House Bill 2420 (Written-Only Testimony)

Student Mental Health Parental Consent

House Education Committee

January 22, 2026

Chairwoman Estes and Members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 2420. Aligned is a nonpartisan advocacy organization focused on advancing effective, evidence-based education policy that strengthens accountability, transparency, and innovation in our education system.

House Bill 2420 reinforces a foundational principle of education policy: parents and guardians are essential partners in their children’s education and day-to-day well-being. By requiring parental notification and consent before school-based mental health services are provided, this bill establishes clear expectations for accountability and ensures families remain informed and involved in decisions that directly affect their children. HB 2420 sets a clear statewide standard for when and how school-based mental health services are initiated. This clarity benefits students, families, educators, and service providers alike.

Parental involvement strengthens student outcomes. Parents are best positioned to understand their child’s needs, history, and day-to-day circumstances. House Bill 2420 affirms that school-based mental health services should complement, not replace, the role of families in guiding their children’s development and well-being. Importantly, House Bill 2420 maintains an exception for situations involving credible risk of suicide. This ensures schools can act immediately to protect students in crisis, while still honoring parental involvement as the default expectation in all other circumstances.

When parents are informed and involved, trust in schools increases. House Bill 2420 supports a transparent framework that encourages collaboration rather than confusion, helping families feel confident that schools are acting in partnership with them and within clearly defined boundaries.

Aligned supports House Bill 2420 because it strengthens accountability, reinforces parental involvement in students’ education and day-to-day experiences, and provides clear guidance for schools across Kansas. We respectfully urge the Committee to support this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Claudia Fury-Aguirre

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