

January 19, 2026

HB2420

**Proponent Testimony**

Written Only

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Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2420.

This bill affirms a fundamental principle: parents have the primary right and responsibility to make decisions regarding their child's mental health care. HB 2420 ensures that school-based mental health services are provided transparently, with full parental knowledge and written consent, rather than occurring without a parent's awareness or involvement.

Importantly, the bill does **not** prevent schools from responding to student safety concerns. It includes a clear and necessary exception allowing school personnel to conduct suicide risk assessments when there is a credible concern that a student may be at risk. This preserves the ability of schools to act quickly in emergencies while maintaining appropriate boundaries in non-emergency situations.

Schools play an important role in supporting students, but they are not a substitute for parents. Mental health interventions can have lasting impacts, and parents deserve to be informed partners in those decisions. This bill strengthens trust between families and schools by promoting communication, consent, and shared responsibility.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to support HB 2420.

I would ask that you adjust the wording to eliminate the word "School district" and just use "school" to ensure private schools must also comply.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lauren Shiffman