

**Date of Committee Hearing: January 22, 2026**  
**Testimony to the House Education Committee**

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**BILL NUMBER:** HB 2420

**OPPONENT**

**WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY**

Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition to bill HB 2420.

The proposed law is redundant and not clear. We already have a law in Kansas (K.S.A. 72-6287) requiring parental consent for ongoing behavioral health treatment. The current law provides clear guidance while also allowing staff to support immediate needs of students.

I am extremely concerned about the unintended consequences such as unnecessary delays in essential care to keep students safe. In particular, adolescence is a unique period in development when young people make decisions and initiate behaviors that may have lifelong consequences for their health and safety. Limited access to and uptake of health services in adolescence remains a global challenge. Confidentiality concerns can be a critical barrier for young patients in seeking and receiving appropriate medical services, and confidentiality protection represents an important evidence-based practice in adolescent health care.\*

\*Source: English A, Morreale M. A legal and policy framework for adolescent health care: past, present, and future. *Houst J Health Law Policy*.

In these challenging times, we should be focused on making mental health care more accessible rather than creating barriers and delays that could have tragic consequences.

Thank you for listening to your constituents. Please vote “No” on HB 2420.

Rana Bentley

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