

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

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BILL NUMBER: HB2420

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only

Chair Estes and members of the committee,

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

I am the parent of a school-aged child who has a diagnosed anxiety disorder. I also serve on my local school board's advisory committee which focuses on student health and well-being. While I appreciate that this bill carves out the ability for school employees to provide a screening if there are immediate concerns of suicide, this is not the only mental health emergency that students may face at school. Children like my own may suddenly have their first panic attack while at school, and this bill would make it impossible for school staff to assist such a student in a timely manner, when a quick and knowledgeable response is paramount, without facing the threat of a large fine. If my kid—or any kid—is in need of mental health supports at school, I don't want available staff checking the files to see whether or not they have parental consent, or whether the fine is worth the cost of assisting a student under their care, and so on.

Experts who do this work in schools (e.g. counselors, nurses, etc.) have also raised concerns that HB 2420 is redundant and also clarity. A law requiring parent/guardian consent for ongoing behavioral health treatment already exists in Kansas. The existing law provides clear guidance AND allows staff to support the immediate needs of students. This is the balance that we should have in our schools.

I appreciate your time and consideration and would again ask that you vote NO on HB 2420.

Colleen Cunningham
Overland Park