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HB 2420 - Requiring school districts to obtain parental consent prior to providing certain school-based mental health services to a student.

Opponent - Written only

1/22/26 - Hearing Date

I am writing to express my strong support for the essential role school counselors play in protecting and supporting Kansas students' mental health.

School counselors are often the first trusted adults students turn to when they are overwhelmed, struggling, or in crisis. They provide a caring, safe, immediate, and professional space for students to speak before problems escalate into harm or spiral into a more serious situation. Limiting a counselor's ability to have mental health conversations with students creates barriers for children who need help the most.

While parental involvement is important, HB 2420 fails to recognize the reality that not all students have safe, caring, responsive, or supportive homes. Some students experience neglect, abuse, or instability, and requiring parental permission before offering basic mental health support risks silencing vulnerable children and removing their most accessible support during the school day. In addition, many parents are difficult to reach due to work schedules, changing contact information, or other life circumstances. When permission becomes a prerequisite for care, students are left waiting while their emotional needs grow more urgent. Schools should remove barriers to support, not create them.

Students need someone to listen, guide, and protect them in moments of stress, fear, or confusion. HB 2420 would weaken that safety net and place unnecessary limits on professionals who are trained to help.

For the safety, well-being, and future of Kansas children, I stand in support of school counselors and urge lawmakers to reject House Bill 2420.

Thank you for your time and for considering the real impact this bill would have on students across our state.

Respectfully,
Brock Funke, Building Principal