

From: [Linda Hardy](#)
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HR 2420
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Dear Members of the Kansas House Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 2420, which would require parental consent before school counselors can provide Tier 2 or Tier 3 mental health support to students.

At its core, this legislation creates barriers to timely, appropriate care for students who are asking for help. Under HB 2420, a student who reaches out to a school counselor may be told to wait while paperwork is completed, consent is obtained, or contact is made with a parent or guardian. For a child in distress, waiting is not a neutral act — it can mean escalation, withdrawal, or harm.

This concern is especially urgent in Kansas. Our state consistently ranks high for teen suicide compared to national averages. That reality alone should compel us to reduce barriers to mental health support, not add new ones. When a student reaches out to a trusted adult at school, access to a trained mental health professional can be life-saving. Delays matter. Access matters.

School counseling works because it allows for early intervention. When students are able to access support as concerns emerge, counselors can prevent crises before they occur. HB 2420 shifts this model from preventative to reactive, delaying care until problems are more severe and more difficult to address.

This legislation does not impact all students equally. Students who are already at higher risk — those experiencing trauma, family instability, mental health stigma, abuse, neglect, or fear of punishment at home — are the very students most likely to lose access to support under this bill. Many of these students do not feel safe disclosing mental health struggles to a parent or guardian. If seeking help at school automatically triggers required parental consent, these students may stop asking altogether.

That outcome does not protect children. It creates blind spots.

When access to counseling is restricted, problems do not disappear. They escalate. Anxiety turns into crisis. Stress becomes school avoidance. Depression deepens. Warning signs are missed — not because counselors are unwilling to help, but because they are legally prevented from doing so.

HB 2420 sends a dangerous message to students: that help comes with conditions, and that asking for support may come with consequences outside of their control. This undermines trust in schools as safe spaces and discourages students from speaking up when they need help most.

Kansas students deserve access to school-based mental health support that is timely, equitable, and responsive. School counselors are trained professionals who already operate under ethical

standards, confidentiality guidelines, and existing reporting requirements to ensure student safety. Adding unnecessary consent barriers does not improve outcomes — it increases risk.

I urge you to oppose HB 2420 and to protect students' ability to access counseling support without delay or fear. Our children's lives and well-being depend on it.

Respectfully,

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