

From: [Kaley Jones](#)
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB 2420
Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 9:46:50 PM

You don't often get email from kaley.jones0518@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this as a daughter whose dad died by suicide, so having resources available to the youth is CRUCIAL!!

School counselors are not a nice extra. For many kids, they are the first safe adult. Sometimes they are the only one.

When a student works up the courage to ask for help, timing matters. That moment is fragile. It is often the difference between speaking up and shutting down. Proposed legislation in Kansas, HB 2420, would require parental consent before school counselors can provide Tier 2 or Tier 3 mental health support. In practice, that means kids who ask for help may be told to wait. Early warning signs get buried under paperwork. Students who do not feel safe disclosing at home may stop asking altogether. Support becomes reactive instead of preventative.

I think about this through the lens of my own life. Suicide is rarely sudden. It is often the result of pain that went unseen or unaddressed for too long. Delays matter. Missed opportunities matter. When help is restricted, problems do not disappear. They grow quietly until they explode.

This policy does not affect all students equally. The kids who rely most on school counselors are often the ones living with trauma, instability, stigma around mental health, or fear of punishment at home. These are the same students least likely to get parental consent and most likely to fall through the cracks. A requirement meant to protect ends up creating barriers, blind spots, and dangerous delays.

This does not protect students. It increases risk and sends a message no child should hear. Help comes with conditions.

If we truly care about student safety, we need to protect access to early, trusted, in school mental health support. We need to listen to the real world consequences of policies like this, especially from those who have lived with loss.

Please don't approve HB 2420.

Thank you,

Kaley Jones