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HB2024

Position on Bill: opponent

Written only

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HB2420 Requiring school districts to obtain parental consent prior to providing certain school-based mental health services to a student.

January 20, 2026

Thank you, Committee on Education. HB 2024's vague language would prevent school staff from creating the safe, supportive learning environments students need. In schools, distress can appear suddenly—a child crying inconsolably, hiding under furniture, refusing to enter the classroom, or escalating into behaviors that disrupt learning for everyone. Educators can't always provide the immediate, specialized support required, and delaying assistance while waiting for parental consent (both verbal and written, as outlined in the bill) could worsen the situation.

School mental health professionals are trained to deescalate these moments quickly, yet the bill's penalties would make staff hesitant to even check on a struggling student for fear it might be considered "providing mental health services." This hesitation threatens students' emotional safety and their ability to engage in learning.

Please consider how HB 2024's broad language and harsh penalties would limit schools' ability to respond to students' urgent needs and divert already-limited resources away from classrooms and into state funds unrelated to education. Our students deserve the safe, responsive school environments that are necessary for learning.

Thank you for your consideration,

Shawna Peters-Maldonado