From: Christopher McKinney
To: House Education
Subject: HB2420
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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally oppose HB2420, a piece of legislation that I believe is not only absurd in its scope but deeply unhealthy and potentially dangerous for students who rely on school-based support systems.

As a mental health professional with over twelve years of experience working directly with youth and adolescents, I have witnessed firsthand how critical access to trusted school staff is for students navigating emotional distress, mental health challenges, and crisis situations. HB2420 threatens student safety by placing unnecessary barriers between young people and the very supports that often prevent harm and save lives.

This legislation compromises schools' ability to provide prevention and early intervention. Educating students on how to care for their mental health, recognize warning signs, and seek help from trusted adults is a foundational element of student wellness. Many students only feel safe discussing deeply personal and sensitive matters with school counselors, social workers, psychologists, or other trusted staff members they interact with daily. Requiring parental signatures or immediate parental involvement in order for these conversations to occur is not only unrealistic but harmful.

Parent signatures are not always accessible, and more importantly, they can deter students from seeking help at all. Many young people I have worked with are struggling precisely because of circumstances at home, including parental behaviors, instability, or trauma. For these students, mandated parental involvement does not create safety—it creates fear, silence, and isolation. Forcing disclosure or halting supportive conversations strips students of autonomy and trust at moments when they are most vulnerable.

Supporting HB2420 will undoubtedly discourage students from seeking help due to fear of repercussions at home. This fear can lead to worsening mental health outcomes, increased risk-taking behaviors, and, in some cases, life-threatening consequences. Schools must retain the ability to act as safe spaces where students can seek guidance, prevention, and support without unnecessary legislative interference.

Opposing this bill allows school staff to continue doing what they are trained to do: support students in moments of need, provide life-saving interventions, and foster environments where young people feel heard, valued, and protected. HB2420 undermines these efforts and places children at risk.

For the wellbeing, safety, and lives of our students, I strongly urge you to oppose HB2420.

Sincerely,
Chris McKinney, LSCSW

KS license #11320
Mental Health Professional

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