

From: [RINEBERG, AUBREE](#)
To: [House Education](#)
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Good afternoon,

My name is Aubree Rineberg and I am currently a school counselor at State Street Elementary School in Topeka, KS. Our school is a Title 1 school that has an extremely high free and reduced lunch population. We have many students who have experienced unspeakable trauma and are currently living in homes where one or more of their basic needs is not met. This leads to internalizing and externalizing behaviors that school counselors see at school and we are the front line for getting these students the help and support they need.

Unfortunately, many of the reasons our students are effected is due to lack of involvement with their families or just out right abuse or neglect. If this bill were to pass, my ability to work with these kids and teach them appropriate social skills, communication strategies, and coping strategies would be tarnished. It is often very hard to get in touch with some of our most needy families. I would have to sit back and watch a student continue to struggle while I know that each day that passes, it will be even harder to overcome the traumas they have endured. In addition, this also may limit my ability to identify students who are indeed experiencing abuse and neglect and getting them the support they so desperately need. Sometimes, school counselors are the only ones students will disclose this information to and I'm very concerned that if I'm unable to work closely with these children, these situations may never discovered.

As a parent myself, I understand the need to keep families informed. I want to work collaboratively to help our students succeed and I do believe a partnership with families is a huge piece. However, not every parent thinks the way I do and this can be due to selfish reasons such as not wanting to get in trouble for their own choices. I had this exact example happen this week at my own school. I will continue to advocate for what is best for my students because they are important and they deserve it.

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