

January 19, 2026

Chairman Estes and Esteemed Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 2420. For many students, schools are their only access to healthcare. Additionally, schools often serve as the first point of contact for various crises, including mental health issues, emotional distress, and social-emotional challenges. These issues significantly impact students' daily lives and their ability to learn effectively. As a Registered Nurse with nearly 15 years of experience, including eight years as a school nurse, I have witnessed firsthand the vital role that educational institutions play in addressing students' mental health needs.

While I believe that parents should be the primary decision-makers regarding their children's care, HB 2420 would create dangerous barriers to accessing necessary services while students are at school. Mental health crises can be urgent and life-threatening; requiring parental consent could significantly delay the response to these situations and limit the resources available to students in need.

Current laws, such as K.S.A. 72-6287, already require schools to obtain parental consent for ongoing behavioral health treatment. Furthermore, HB 2420 may result in delays in care and hinder school staff from conducting essential check-ins on students who exhibit signs of emotional or mental distress, such as crying or verbal indications of crisis. Mandating written parental consent could delay responses by hours or even days, which is both unreasonable and detrimental to students' well-being.

In conclusion, the mental health of adolescents is a critical issue that deserves serious attention. I respectfully urge you to reconsider and reject HB 2420.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruby Romero, BSN, RN".

Ruby Romero, BSN, RN
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