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HB 2420 – Parental Consent for Tier 2/3 Mental Health Support
Opponent
Written Only
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Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 2420, which would require parental consent before school counselors can provide Tier 2 or Tier 3 mental health support to students. While intended to protect students, this legislation would create significant barriers that put students at greater risk.

Students who seek help may be told to wait, delaying early intervention and shifting support from preventative to reactive. Those who do not feel safe disclosing at home—often the students who need help the most—may stop asking for help altogether. High-risk students experiencing trauma, family instability, or mental health stigma are disproportionately affected and would face the greatest obstacles to receiving support.

This bill does not protect students. It creates blind spots, delays care, and increases the likelihood that problems will escalate. Mental health support in schools is essential to student well-being and success. Restricting access sends a dangerous message: “Help comes only if your home allows it.”

Students deserve timely and equitable access to support. For the safety and well-being of Kansas students, I urge the committee to oppose HB 2420.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jessica Tjaden