

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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DR. MEGAN D. STEELE
51ST DISTRICT

January 19, 2026

Subject: Proponent Testimony for HB2420

To: Honorable Chair Estes and Education Committee Members

I write in support of HB2420 because it reinforces a fundamental principle: parents have the primary responsibility and authority over decisions that affect their child's education, health, and well-being.

Kansas law already reflects this principle in many areas. Parental consent is required for special education evaluations and services, medical care provided at school, and participation in certain assessments and surveys. Mental health services can be just as significant, and often more sensitive, than these other interventions. Requiring parental knowledge and consent before such services are provided is both reasonable and responsible.

It is also important to be clear about what this bill does and does not do. This legislation does not prevent teachers from checking in with students, asking how they are doing, or offering care and encouragement in the classroom. Those interactions fall squarely within Tier 1 supports under MTSS and are a normal, healthy part of education.

What this bill does address is the practice of pulling students out of academic classrooms to receive ongoing or targeted mental health services without parental knowledge or consent. When instructional time is interrupted for services that go beyond general support and move into mental health intervention, parents should be informed and involved. These decisions affect not only a child's emotional well-being but also their academic experience.

This bill does not prevent schools from responding to urgent situations. Suicide risk screening is explicitly allowed without prior consent, ensuring student safety remains the top priority. What it does ensure is that ongoing mental health services are not provided without parents being aware and engaged in the process.

When parents are informed and involved, they are better equipped to support their children outside of school. Transparency strengthens trust between families and schools and helps prevent misunderstandings that can escalate into conflict later.

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Finally, the accountability provisions in this bill are not about punishment. They exist to protect families from being excluded from significant decisions and to ensure expectations are clear. Schools that communicate openly and act in good faith will have nothing to fear.

This legislation supports students by supporting families. It respects the role of educators while recognizing that parents remain the central figures in a child's care and development. For these reasons, I urge you to support HB2420.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Megan Steele'.

Representative Steele