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HB 2420: Requirement for Parental Consent for School Based Mental Health Services

Position: Opponent

Testimony: Written Only

January 15, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to share concerns regarding HB 2420 and its impact on school based mental health services, particularly at the elementary level. As an elementary school counselor, my role is to provide timely, preventative, and responsive support to students throughout the school day. Much of this work occurs through brief check ins, crisis response, classroom lessons, and support during moments of emotional or behavioral dysregulation. These interactions are essential to maintaining student safety and supporting learning.

House Bill 2420 would require parental consent prior to providing some services within our schools. While family collaboration is already a vital part of school counseling practice, this requirement would create significant barriers to meeting students' immediate needs. Elementary students often require support in the moment to regulate emotions, resolve peer conflict, or cope with stressors. Delays in support can lead to escalation, increased classroom disruption, and greater emotional distress.

In addition, my current caseload is nearly 400 students to one counselor. Requiring consent each time support is needed would not be feasible and would significantly reduce my ability to serve students effectively. The added administrative burden could result in hesitation to provide support and limit access for students who rely on school as their primary source of mental health care.

School counselors are trained professionals who follow ethical standards, district policies, and existing legal requirements. We already communicate with families and seek consent when ongoing or intensive services are necessary. HB 2420 risks undermining these established practices and weakening the support systems that help students succeed.

I respectfully urge you to consider the unintended consequences this bill may have on students, families, and school communities. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Christy Vangaasbeek
Elementary School Counselor