



Opposition Written Testimony – HB2420
House Committee on Education
Representative Susan Estes, Chair

January 22, 2026
Susan Willis, Government Liaison
USD 259 - Wichita Public Schools

Chair Estes and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opposition testimony on House Bill 2420.

Wichita Public Schools employs support staff – social workers, school psychologists and school counselors – who regularly provide mental health services to students when requested by students or teachers. These services are essential to both the emotional well-being and academic success of our students.

Key Concerns:

1. Delays in Service:

The bill's requirement for both verbal and written parent consent before providing services could create substantial delays. Many parents are difficult to reach, and delays may limit access to Tier 2 and Tier 3 mental health supports. Delays in intervention may not only exacerbate emotional or behavioral concerns but also negatively impact academic progress.

2. Questionable Need for Both Verbal and Written Consent:

It is unclear why both forms are necessary, particularly when verbal consent could allow support staff to respond quickly to urgent student needs. Requiring both could unnecessarily slow access to interventions and create additional administrative burdens without a clear benefit to student safety or well-being.

3. Confidentiality Conflicts:

Written consent requirements for purpose, expected timeframe, and plan for services may conflict with professional and legal obligations to maintain student confidentiality, which is only waived in cases of significant risk to self or others, suspected abuse or neglect, or court-ordered mandates. Requiring disclosure beyond these limits may compromise student trust and hinder effective interventions.

4. Impact on MTSS/Response to Intervention (RTI) Frameworks:

We use screeners to identify students in need of Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions. The consent requirements outlined in the bill could limit our ability to provide timely and proactive interventions, forcing a reactive approach to instead. This undermines the MTSS and RTI frameworks we use to support both mental health and academic outcomes.

5. Practical Implementation Challenges:

Many routine interventions in our behavior protocols would require parental consent under HB2420. Obtaining consent for each routine intervention for our 45,000 students would be an administrative challenge (to put it lightly), and could create inequities in service delivery, particularly for families who are difficult to contact due to work, homelessness, lack of current phone service, and a multitude of other challenges our families face, 80% of whom live in some level of poverty. Academic MTSS/RTI interventions do not require consent, highlighting a concerning inconsistency.

While we support increased parent involvement in student mental health, HB2420 as written would significantly impede timely, equitable and ethical delivery of critical services in Wichita Public Schools. We urge the Committee to consider the potential unintended consequences on student well-being and academic outcomes and to oppose this bill in its current form.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.