

January 22, 2026

Testimony to the House Education Committee

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BILL NUMBER: HB 2420

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: OPPONENT

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: WRITTEN ONLY

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I submit this testimony in opposition to HB 2420 because of its potential impact on student safety.

HB 2420 would require schools to provide both verbal and written parental notification before initiating any school-based mental health service and would impose a \$5,000 fine on individual school employees who fail to meet these requirements.

We already have that.

Kansas law already requires parental consent for ongoing behavioral and mental health services under K.S.A. 72-6287. Current law provides clear guidance to schools while preserving the ability of trained staff to respond when a student's safety or well-being is at risk.

HB 2420 is redundant and unclear. We already have a framework that involves parents while allowing schools to address urgent student needs. This bill risks creating hesitation and delay at moments when timely support is critical.

Adding punitive fines creates a chilling effect for educators, counselors, nurses, and social workers who are acting in good faith to keep students safe. Advocacy organizations including the **Kansas Association of School Boards, Kansas PTA, and Kansas School Nurses Association** have raised **concerns** that this bill could **discourage staff** from intervening **when students are experiencing crisis, trauma, or emotional distress**.

We already have parental involvement. We already have consent requirements. What students need is safe, supportive schools where adults are empowered—not penalized—for responding appropriately when concerns arise.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose HB 2420 and to prioritize student safety and well-being.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony.

Cassandra Woolworth
Constituent
Olathe, KS