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Re: HB 2420 Requiring school districts to obtain parental consent prior to providing certain school-based mental health services to a student.

Opponent - Written

January 22, 2026 (scheduled)

My name is Jonathan Zimmerman and I am a parent in USD 376. We have an outstanding public school system here in Sterling and across the state as a whole. I graduated valedictorian from Sterling H.S. in 1998 and graduated with honors from Kansas State University in 2002.

I am writing in opposition to this bill because I feel that this bill will undermine the effectiveness of school-based mental health services. School-based mental health services provide an invaluable service for countless children that would otherwise have no access to these services.

Parents are busier than ever and personal budgets are strained at record levels. School-based mental health services are funded and already in place and having access to licensed professionals during the school day is an invaluable benefit for our children. I feel like this bill will put roadblocks in the way of students seeking immediate help with mental health issues that either are suddenly present or that might stem from issues in the home.

Outlined in Section 1(d)(4), this bill would only apply to the tier 2 and 3 levels of the multi-tiered system of supports framework. These two tiers are where the real help takes place with the children. This one-on-one therapy is where our child felt comfortable enough to speak about the sexual abuse he was experiencing at his father's home on weekend visits. At that time he was not comfortable sharing that with his mother or myself for fear of retribution by his father towards himself or us. He was, however, comfortable discussing it with our school's licensed professional who then worked with him to tell us so that legal authorities could be notified. By enacting this bill you will provide some parents a mechanism to keep their children from receiving the care and support that they desperately need.

Sadly, the truth of the matter, in my opinion, lies in parents' responsibility. Even in our case, with constant reassurance of our son's safety in our house, he did not feel he could tell us what he needed to tell us. How many times does this play out every year across Kansas where that support doesn't exist or isn't offered. The professionals we trust our school staff to put in place are there to do a job and do it whenever it is needed. Please let them do their job without adding another layer of red-tape to an already heavily regulated service.

Please do not allow this bill out of committee.

With warm regards,  
Jonathan Zimmerman