

**Written PROPONENT testimony for HB 2669 AN ACT Codifying the mental health intervention team program administered by the Kansas department for aging and disability services in state statute.**

To: Madam Chair Representative Landwehr and committee members

From: Nina Lopez, teacher

Date: February 8, 2024

Madam Chair Landwehr and members of the committee,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the potential loss of our dedicated social worker from Holy Savior Catholic Academy and to highlight the crucial connection between their role and my responsibilities as the Title 1 teacher working with our at-risk students.

In my role as the Title 1 teacher, I am entrusted with the academic progress and overall well-being of approximately 30 at-risk students within our academy. The collaborative efforts between the Title 1 program and our social worker have been pivotal in addressing the multifaceted needs of these students, ensuring a holistic approach to their education.

Our social worker's compassion, empathy, and tireless commitment to the social and emotional development of our students have significantly contributed to the success of the Title 1 program. The personalized support they provide aligns seamlessly with the academic assistance I offer, creating a comprehensive support system for our at-risk students.

Losing such a valuable member of our team could have far-reaching consequences on the effectiveness of the Title 1 program and, consequently, on the academic outcomes of our at-risk students. Their unique ability to connect with students and address their diverse needs has been instrumental in creating a nurturing atmosphere that goes beyond academic achievement.

I understand that decisions involving staffing can be complex, and factors beyond our immediate control may influence such choices. However, I implore you to consider the profound impact our social worker has had on the collaborative efforts between the Title 1 program and their role at Holy Savior Catholic Academy.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further and explore any potential avenues to ensure the continued presence of our social worker and the continued success of the Title 1 program at Holy Savior Catholic Academy. Their role is not merely a position; it is an investment in the holistic development and academic progress of our at-risk students.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to the possibility of engaging in a constructive dialogue on this matter.

Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the committee, for allowing me to provide support for HB 2669. Please feel free to reach out to me if I can be of assistance to you in this worthy endeavor to protect our children and provide needed services to them. Thank you for your consideration.

Nina Lopez

USD259 Non-Pub Title I Teacher

Holy Savior

nlopez@usd259.net

Cell 316-210-0871