



Catholic Schools

ARCHDIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY IN KANSAS

Re: Testimony in Support of Kansas HB 2669 – Mental Health Intervention Team Act

Dear Madam Chair Landwher and the Members of the Committee:

I serve as Associate Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas. We have forty-two schools spanning 12,500 square miles in Kansas. We serve 14,000 students from various backgrounds and income levels.

I firmly support House Bill 2669. As a former principal, I had to seek outside funding and free services to support students with mental health needs. Often, students were in my office sharing their mental health issues. Some sought comfort from family issues, others were struggling with what appeared to be anxiety and depression. During my time as principal in a K-8 building, I had three students try to commit suicide. Our students need HB 2669.

In my role as Associate Superintendent, I receive calls on regularly from principals seeking help for a student with mental health needs. Within the last five years, these calls have become almost daily. More than ever, our children need mental health professionals, trained in the skills and knowledge to navigate sensitive situations to help them succeed.

I urge the committee to support Kansas HB 2669. Having a robust mental health intervention system will help all Kansas children who will soon be the leaders in our community.

Thank you for your dedication to Kansas children. I am grateful to you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Allison M. Carney



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