



February 15, 2024

Opponent Testimony HB 2793- Written

Chair Landwehr and members of the Committee:

The Kansas School Nurses Organization (KSNO) **opposes HB 2793** which would prohibit healthcare providers from performing healthcare services on minors without parental consent.

We are concerned that the language of this bill is too broad and would prevent us from doing assessments and interventions on students when they have medical needs that would not rise to the level of emergency care that is excluded from this bill in section c.

School nurses assess and give care for students following guidelines in the Kansas Nurse Practice Act for many things that need immediate action, but that do not require emergency care. This could include things like assessing signs of acute illness, treating a recess injury, helping stop a nosebleed, assessing a bump to the head and many other medical situations school nurses deal with on a daily basis.

KSNO is concerned that the language on line 2 and 3 “prohibiting a healthcare provider from performing a healthcare service on a minor patient without parental consent;” means that we would be prevented from acting quickly to help a child because a parent is not immediately available to be contacted.

As frontline healthcare professionals, we have a duty to prioritize the best interests and welfare of the minors under our care. This often requires us to act swiftly and decisively to address their healthcare needs. Prohibiting healthcare services on minors without parental consent would hinder school nurses’ ability to fulfill this duty and could potentially result in unintended harm to vulnerable children.

We are also concerned that social workers and counselors would not be able to assist with a classroom behavior situation that requires quick intervention due to this language.

If this bill is meant only to repeal KSA 38-123 and 65-2892a, then the language needs to be more specific to those particular statutes.

**Please vote “NO” on HB 2793 to ensure that Kansas School Nurses can continue to help all students with immediate health care needs while they are at school.**

**Please contact Kimberly Martin [kimberlysmartin@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlysmartin@gmail.com) with questions.**

Kimberly Martin RN, MEd, BSN

Kansas School Nurses Organization Legislative Chair

On behalf of the Board of the Kansas School Nurses Organization