



Written opponent testimony on

HB 2793

**Prohibiting healthcare providers from performing healthcare services on minors
without parental consent**

By

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To

House Committee on Health and Human Services

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February 15, 2024

Chair Landwehr and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to HB 2793. Our member-adopted legislative policies and permanent policies state our members' support for developing strong relationships between teachers, students, and families in support of our districts' educational mission. Additionally, *"KASB supports providing school districts authority to address the health and wellness needs of students . . ."*

Our member boards and the districts they serve are always working in partnership with parents to provide their students with the education and services they need each day in our public schools. Those partnerships are essential. We are concerned that this bill is broadly written and would have the unintended consequence of preventing districts from supporting families and students in ways that preserve students' access to their education.

For example, state law charges districts with conducting vision, dental, and hearing screenings for students. Currently, students receive these screenings except where parents have chosen to opt their students out of these screening services. If this bill were to become law, parents would likely need to provide individual consent for each of these

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required screenings, resulting in students and their families not participating in these important, mandated programs.

Additionally, Kansas law allows school staff to perform certain caretaking and healthcare services that are necessary for students to remain in school. This bill would put at risk the licenses of school district staff providing these services. While districts already get advance consent if parents want them to be able to give over the counter or prescription medications to their student, the bill would potentially prevent trained and licensed school district staff from engaging in consultative and diagnostic supports as part of this work. For example, school nurses help a lot of students with diabetes monitor their insulin levels, so they can remain in school. Not having access to these services, which could be an unintended consequence of this bill, would create a barrier for a lot of students to remain in school each day.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the committee decline to advance this bill.

Thank you.