

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
State of Oklahoma

SPEAKER:

CHAIR:

I move to amend HB2513 \_\_\_\_\_  
Of the printed Bill  
Page \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ Lines \_\_\_\_\_  
Of the Engrossed Bill

By striking the Title, the Enacting Clause, the entire bill, and by inserting in lieu thereof the following language:

**AMEND TITLE TO CONFORM TO AMENDMENTS**

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

Amendment submitted by: Ajay Pittman \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reading Clerk

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 PROPOSED COMMITTEE  
4 SUBSTITUTE  
5 FOR  
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 2513

By: Pittman

7 PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to schools; describing the problem of  
9 unaddressed trauma in children; providing program  
10 purpose; directing legislature to appropriate funds  
11 to implement and operate a Handle With Care Oklahoma  
12 program; providing for program coordination between  
13 certain public agencies and community coalitions;  
14 enabling law enforcement to notify program; listing  
15 applicable traumatic events for notification;  
16 requiring administration of a hotline, email, or  
17 other method to provide notification; prescribing  
18 information to be included in notification;  
19 prohibiting inclusion of certain information;  
20 directing notification to designated representatives;  
21 including specified statement in notification;  
22 directing Oklahoma School Security Institute to  
23 provide model protocol and training for certain  
24 agencies; requiring Department of Mental Health and  
Substance Abuse Services to provide model protocol  
and training; specifying information to be included  
in training; authorizing rule promulgation; providing  
exception for notification that could compromise an  
ongoing investigation; requiring program to apply for  
additional funding sources; directing program to  
submit annual report to certain elected officials;  
providing for noncodification; providing for  
codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

1 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be  
2 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

3 A. The Problem.

4 Research shows that unaddressed trauma can undermine children's  
5 ability to learn, form relationships, and function appropriately in  
6 the classroom. In the past, calling the Oklahoma Department of  
7 Human Services statewide centralized hotline to make a mandated  
8 child welfare report was one of the only tools in the first  
9 responder's toolbox, but most children and teens do not meet the  
10 criteria for a child welfare report. Consequently, the children and  
11 teens are never identified, nor do they receive services, and they  
12 linger in traumatic situations without adequate support. These  
13 students have an increased risk for negative outcomes such as poor  
14 academic performance, truancy, dropping out of school, and  
15 delinquency.

16 B. The Handle With Care Oklahoma Program Purpose.

17 Handle With Care (HWC) Oklahoma is a program designed to enhance  
18 existing cross-agency communication and partnership between local  
19 law enforcement, community mental health services and supports, and  
20 schools regarding children's exposure to traumatic events. The  
21 "Handle With Care" approach enables first responders to start  
22 building trust and positive connections with children and teens they  
23 encounter at a traumatic scene and through a HWC notification, local  
24 schools and mental health providers can provide trauma-sensitive

1 support immediately as needed. HWC is aimed at ensuring that  
2 children who are exposed to crime, violence, and abuse receive  
3 appropriate interventions so they can succeed in school to the best  
4 of their ability. Children must feel safe in order to learn.

5 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
6 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.164 of Title 70, unless  
7 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

8 A. The Legislature shall appropriate funds to support the  
9 implementation and operation of the Handle With Care (HWC) Oklahoma  
10 program, coordinated through the Oklahoma School Security Institute,  
11 a division of the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security. HWC  
12 Oklahoma efforts shall enhance existing partnerships and  
13 collaborations with key partners such as, but not limited to, other  
14 state and local first responder agencies, school districts,  
15 community coalitions, the State Department of Education, the  
16 Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the  
17 Department of Human Services, and the State Department of Health.  
18 The statewide HWC Oklahoma program shall enhance planning, training,  
19 implementation, and sustainability in all counties in the state.  
20 The program shall give opportunities for local HWC initiatives to  
21 receive support from the state as needed.

22 B. The HWC program shall enable a law enforcement officer or  
23 employee of a law enforcement agency to notify the program when a  
24 child, who may attend a public school or childcare agency in the

1 state, is exposed to a traumatic event, is at the scene with a first  
2 responder, or another event occurs that may affect his or her  
3 ability to succeed at school including, but not limited to:

- 4 1. Domestic violence in the presence of the child;
- 5 2. Death of a member of the family or household of the child;
- 6 3. Arrest of a parent or guardian of the child affecting the  
7 welfare of the child;
- 8 4. Search warrant is served in the residence of the child;
- 9 5. Drug or alcohol overdose of a child's family member;
- 10 6. Violence or mass shootings in the neighborhood where the  
11 child resides;
- 12 7. Forced displacement from the residence;
- 13 8. House fire;
- 14 9. Child maltreatment; or
- 15 10. Child is present at a first responder encounter.

16 C. The HWC program shall work with local communities and key  
17 partners to administer a telephone hotline, email, or other  
18 appropriate method to allow a law enforcement officer or first  
19 responder agency to provide the notification described in subsection  
20 B of this section.

21 D. Information submitted to the HWC program in the notification  
22 shall comply with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation's  
23 dissemination laws and Victim's Bill of Rights. It shall only  
24 include, to the extent that it is available:

1 1. The first, middle, and last name of the child;

2 2. The grade and school or childcare agency where the child is  
3 enrolled; and

4 3. The date of birth and age of the child.

5 The HWC notification shall not include any details about the  
6 traumatic event unless there is an imminent threat to the safety of  
7 the child or school safety.

8 E. Upon receiving notification as provided in subsection D of  
9 this section, the local HWC multi-disciplinary team (MDT) shall  
10 determine if the child attends a public school or childcare agency  
11 in this state. If the child attends a public school or childcare  
12 agency in the state, the local HWC MDT shall notify designated  
13 representatives where the child attends. The notice shall include  
14 that "the child referenced has been exposed to a traumatic event in  
15 the last twenty-four (24) hours and could exhibit academic,  
16 emotional, and behavioral problems because of exposure to a  
17 traumatic event. Please handle the child with care."

18 F. 1. The Oklahoma School Security Institute, in coordination  
19 with community coalitions and partner state and local first  
20 responder agencies, shall provide model protocol and training for  
21 the HWC Oklahoma program to first responder agencies and their  
22 employees who may respond to a traumatic event involving a child.

23 2. The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse  
24 Services, in coordination with the State Department of Education and

1 community coalitions, shall include model protocol and training for  
2 the HWC Oklahoma program in existing efforts which promotes  
3 universal trauma-informed practices in school settings.

4 G. The training required in subsection F of this section shall  
5 include, at a minimum:

6 1. The criteria for sending a HWC notice;

7 2. The procedure for notifying the HWC program when a child who  
8 may attend a public school or childcare agency is exposed to an  
9 event listed in subsection B of this section that may affect his or  
10 her ability to succeed at school and the information to include in  
11 the notification;

12 3. Proper response to a notification received from the program,  
13 including, without limitation, the manner in which to respond to  
14 notification through early interventions; and

15 4. Collaboration with teachers and other members of the staff  
16 of a school, students, family members of students, multi-  
17 disciplinary teams, other persons, and behavioral, social, and  
18 health providers, as appropriate, to reduce the negative impact of  
19 the traumatic event on the affected student, appropriate  
20 interventions that may be available to assist the student, and the  
21 overall well-being of the student. Community coalitions shall be  
22 engaged to increase coordination of community services.

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1 H. The Oklahoma School Security Institute may promulgate rules  
2 to implement the provisions of this section with feedback from local  
3 first responder agencies, schools, and community coalitions.

4 I. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a law  
5 enforcement officer or employee of a law enforcement agency to  
6 provide notification pursuant to this section if the disclosure of  
7 information may compromise an ongoing investigation.

8 J. In addition to funds appropriated by the legislature  
9 pursuant to subsection A of this section, the HWC Oklahoma program  
10 shall apply for additional federal, state, local, and private funds  
11 to support the HWC Oklahoma program.

12 K. The HWC Oklahoma program shall submit an annual report of  
13 the program's progress, outcomes, and impact on students and  
14 communities to the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives,  
15 President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate, and the  
16 Governor.

17 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

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