

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 April 4, 2023

3 **AS AMENDED**

4 ENGROSSED HOUSE
5 BILL NO. 2513

6 By: Pittman, Waldron,
7 Rosecrants, Hefner, Roe,
8 and Talley of the House

9 and

10 Pugh and Hicks of the
11 Senate

12 [schools - unaddressed trauma in children - Handle
13 With Care Oklahoma program - coordination between
14 public agencies and community coalitions - applicable
15 traumatic events - notification - Oklahoma School
16 Security Institute model protocol and training -
17 Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
18 Services - rule promulgation - funding sources -
19 annual report - noncodification - codification -
20 effective date]

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

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

24 A. The Problem.

Research shows that unaddressed trauma can undermine children's
ability to learn, form relationships, and function appropriately in
the classroom. In the past, calling the Oklahoma Department of
Human Services statewide centralized hotline to make a mandated
child welfare report was one of the only tools in the first
responder's toolbox, but most children and teens do not meet the

1 criteria for a child welfare report. Consequently, the children and
2 teens are never identified, nor do they receive services, and they
3 linger in traumatic situations without adequate support. These
4 students have an increased risk for negative outcomes such as poor
5 academic performance, truancy, dropping out of school, and
6 delinquency.

7 B. The Handle With Care Oklahoma Program Purpose.

8 Handle With Care (HWC) Oklahoma is a program designed to enhance
9 existing cross-agency communication and partnership between local
10 law enforcement, community mental health services and supports, and
11 schools regarding children's exposure to traumatic events. The
12 "Handle With Care" approach enables first responders to start
13 building trust and positive connections with children and teens they
14 encounter at a traumatic scene and through a HWC notification, local
15 schools and mental health providers can provide trauma-sensitive
16 support immediately as needed. HWC is aimed at ensuring that
17 children who are exposed to crime, violence, and abuse receive
18 appropriate interventions so they can succeed in school to the best
19 of their ability. Children must feel safe in order to learn.

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

23 A. The Legislature shall appropriate funds to support the
24 implementation and operation of the Handle With Care (HWC) Oklahoma

1 program, coordinated through the Oklahoma School Security Institute,
2 a division of the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security. HWC
3 Oklahoma efforts shall enhance existing partnerships and
4 collaborations with key partners such as, but not limited to, other
5 state and local first responder agencies, school districts,
6 community coalitions, the State Department of Education, the
7 Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the
8 Department of Human Services, and the State Department of Health.
9 The statewide HWC Oklahoma program shall enhance planning, training,
10 implementation, and sustainability in all counties in the state.
11 The program shall give opportunities for local HWC initiatives to
12 receive support from the state as needed.

13 B. The HWC program shall enable a law enforcement officer or
14 employee of a law enforcement agency to notify the program when a
15 child, who may attend a public school or childcare agency in the
16 state, is exposed to a traumatic event, is at the scene with a first
17 responder, or another event occurs that may affect his or her
18 ability to succeed at school including, but not limited to:

- 19 1. Domestic violence in the presence of the child;
- 20 2. Death of a member of the family or household of the child;
- 21 3. Arrest of a parent or guardian of the child affecting the
22 welfare of the child;
- 23 4. Search warrant is served in the residence of the child;
- 24 5. Drug or alcohol overdose of a child's family member;

1 6. Violence or mass shootings in the neighborhood where the
2 child resides;

3 7. Forced displacement from the residence;

4 8. House fire;

5 9. Child maltreatment; or

6 10. Child is present at a first responder encounter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 E. Upon receiving notification as provided in subsection D of
24 this section, the local HWC multi-disciplinary team (MDT) shall

1 determine if the child attends a public school or childcare agency
2 in this state. If the child attends a public school or childcare
3 agency in the state, the local HWC MDT shall notify designated
4 representatives where the child attends. The notice shall include
5 that "the child referenced has been exposed to a traumatic event in
6 the last twenty-four (24) hours and could exhibit academic,
7 emotional, and behavioral problems because of exposure to a
8 traumatic event. Please handle the child with care."

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

14 2. The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
15 Services, in coordination with the State Department of Education and
16 community coalitions, shall include model protocol and training for
17 the HWC Oklahoma program in existing efforts which promotes
18 universal trauma-informed practices in school settings.

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

21 1. The criteria for sending a HWC notice;

22 2. The procedure for notifying the HWC program when a child who
23 may attend a public school or childcare agency is exposed to an
24 event listed in subsection B of this section that may affect his or

1 her ability to succeed at school and the information to include in
2 the notification;

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

6 4. Collaboration with teachers and other members of the staff
7 of a school, students, family members of students, multi-
8 disciplinary teams, other persons, and behavioral, social, and
9 health providers, as appropriate, to reduce the negative impact of
10 the traumatic event on the affected student, appropriate
11 interventions that may be available to assist the student, and the
12 overall well-being of the student. Community coalitions shall be
13 engaged to increase coordination of community services.

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

17 I. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a law
18 enforcement officer or employee of a law enforcement agency to
19 provide notification pursuant to this section if the disclosure of
20 information may compromise an ongoing investigation.

21 J. In addition to funds appropriated by the legislature
22 pursuant to subsection A of this section, the HWC Oklahoma program
23 shall apply for additional federal, state, local, and private funds
24 to support the HWC Oklahoma program.

1 K. The HWC Oklahoma program shall submit an annual report of
2 the program's progress, outcomes, and impact on students and
3 communities to the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives,
4 President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate, and the
5 Governor.

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

7 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
8 April 4, 2023 - DO PASS AS AMENDED
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