

House Bill 2550 Testimony

February 22, 2017

Dear Chair and Members of the Hearing Committee,

My name is Martha Calderon, I am a board member for the National Association of Social Workers and a Portland State University Masters in Social Work graduate.

I come to you in support of House Bill 2550. As a regional representative for NASW, I speak with and work alongside many wonderful and talented School Social Workers.

Currently, my position is a Licensed School Social Worker for the Lebanon Community School District, working with students, staff and families at an elementary school (K-5). As a School Social Worker, I have utilized the education and past practice to inform perspective, protocol, and interventions when I work with others. I am part of an interdisciplinary team, working closely with the principal, teachers, behavioral support staff, parents, school nurse, special education teachers, and district staff just to name a few. Within this team, my unique point of view provides a lens of micro to macro touch points of support or interventions. This lens may include student support, teacher adaptations, family systems acknowledgement or interventions, or a systems review. All of which inform the team about the unique strengths, struggles, and barriers each student brings to the educational table.

As a School Social Worker, Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs is ever present in supporting our students. It is a united push for all children to be prepared for academics; although, if the body and brain have barriers to learning- then learning can not exist. Our job includes- food resources, clothing supports, or shelter assistance- these basics are necessary building blocks for safety and security of our students. As a School Social Worker, it is our commitment to ensure student's protection from dangerous situations or threat of physical and/or psychological harm. As a School Social Worker, it is our responsibility to support student's self esteem and growth in respect for others. As a School Social Worker, it is our concern of each student's knowledge, exploration and understanding of the world through their cultural paradigm and that of others. And, as a School Social Worker, it is our strive to build love and belonging for all students and staff within our school community. This delivery of services is the truest understanding of Trauma Informed Care.